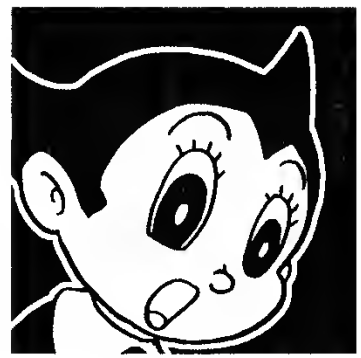
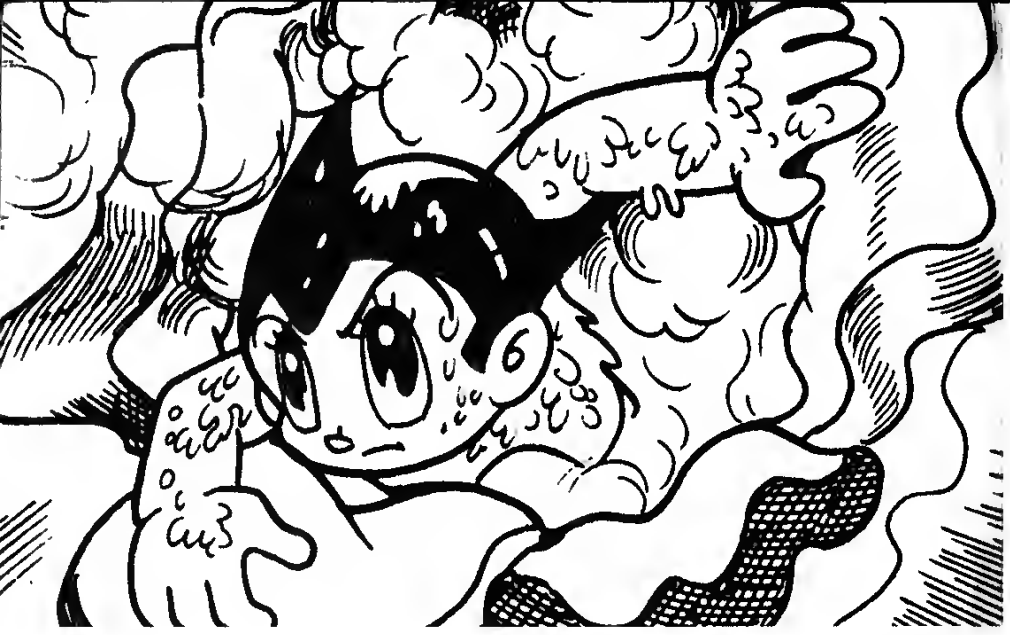
9
Osamu Tezuka's Original
ASTRO BOY

Osamu Tezuka's *Astro Boy* is the all-time, 100,000 horsepower champion of classic all-ages robot action, with tales as exciting, touching, and hilarious today as when Tezuka crafted them almost half a century ago! In this volume: Astro Boy tries to foil a mad scientist's plot to use a robotic Cleopatra to recreate the ancient kingdom of Egypt; Astro tries to solve the mystery of a young ghost appearing on 30 TVs; and Astro joins with the robot Cobalt in a race against time to stop a lost H-Bomb from devastating Japan!





ASTRO BOY®

9

by

Osamu Tezuka

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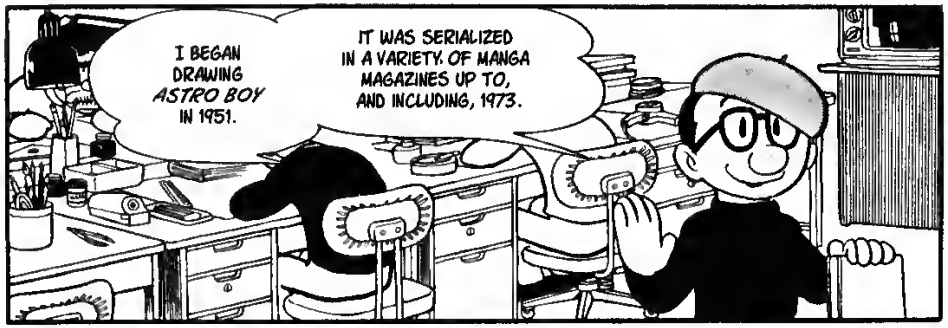
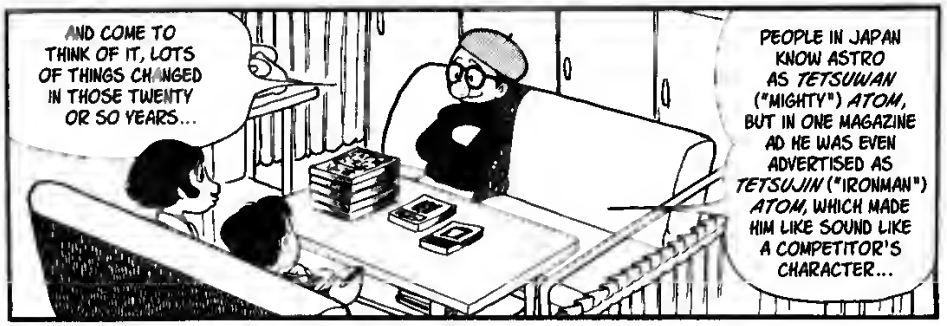
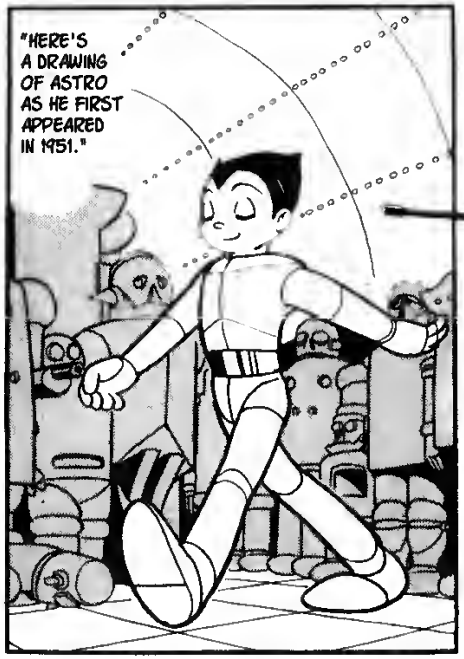
THE SECRET OF THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRATORS

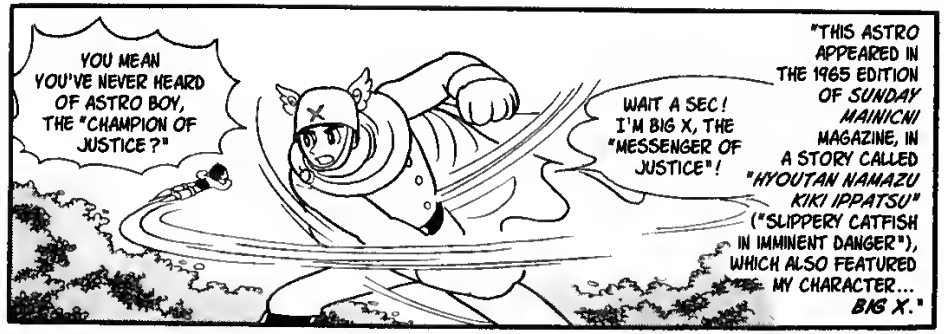
First serialized from April to August 1969 in *Shonen* magazine.


I BEGAN DRAWING *ASTRO BOY* IN 1951.
IT WAS SERIALIZED IN A VARIETY OF MANGA MAGAZINES UP TO, AND INCLUDING, 1973.

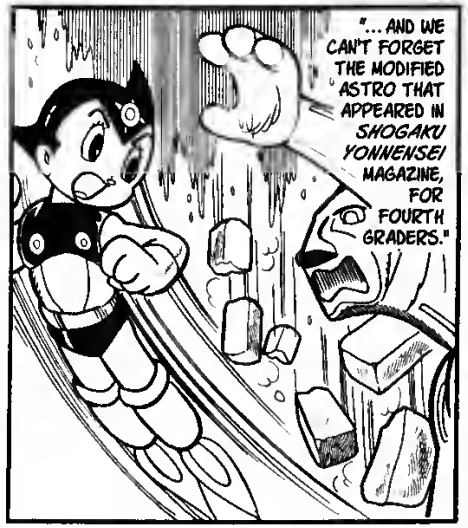

AND COME TO THINK OF IT, LOTS OF THINGS CHANGED IN THOSE TWENTY OR SO YEARS...
PEOPLE IN JAPAN KNOW ASTRO AS *TETSUWAN* ("MIGHTY") *ATOM*, BUT IN ONE MAGAZINE AD HE WAS EVEN ADVERTISED AS *TETSUJIN* ("IRONMAN") *ATOM*, WHICH MADE HIM LIKE SOUND LIKE A COMPETITOR'S CHARACTER...

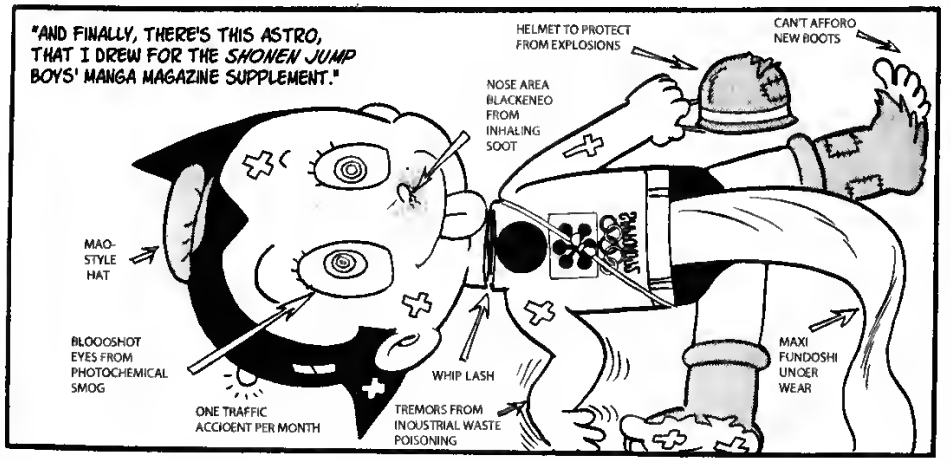

"HERE'S A DRAWING OF ASTRO AS HE FIRST APPEARED IN 1951."

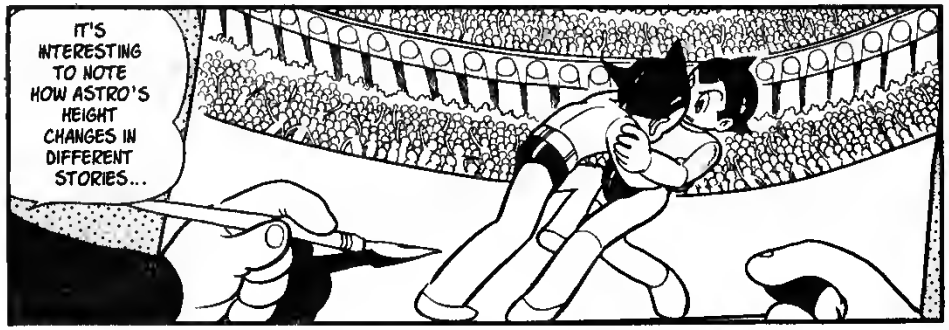
"HERE'S A RARE ASTRO THAT APPEARED ONLY ONCE, IN THE SUPPLEMENT EDITION OF *SHONEN MAGAZINE*."

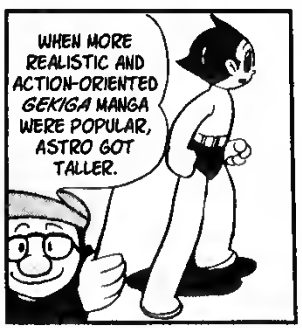

YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF ASTRO BOY, THE "CHAMPION OF JUSTICE?"
WAIT A SEC! I'M BIG X, THE "MESSENGER OF JUSTICE"!
"THIS ASTRO APPEARED IN THE 1965 EDITION OF *SUNDAY MAINICHI* MAGAZINE, IN A STORY CALLED *"HYOUTAN NAMAZU KIKI IPPATSU"* ("SLIPPERY CATFISH IN IMMINENT DANGER"), WHICH ALSO FEATURED MY CHARACTER... *BIG X*."

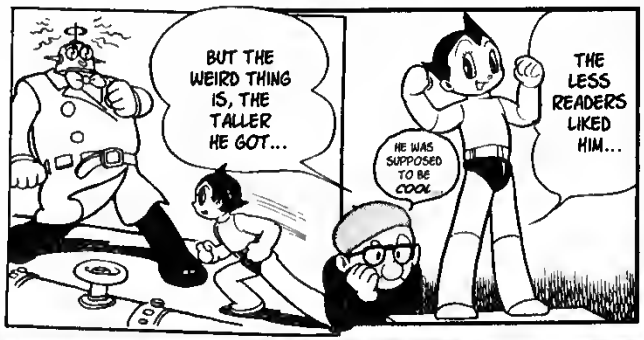
"HERE'S A SECOND GENERATION, GOOF-BALL ASTRO I DREW IN 1975 FOR *BUNGEI SHUNJU DELUXE*."
SCRATCH
SCRATCH


"... AND WE CAN'T FORGET THE MODIFIED ASTRO THAT APPEARED IN *SHOGAKU YONNENSEI* MAGAZINE, FOR FOURTH GRADERS."


"AND FINALLY, THERE'S THIS ASTRO, THAT I DREW FOR THE *SHONEN JUMP* BOYS' MANGA MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT."
HELMET TO PROTECT FROM EXPLOSIONS
CAN'T AFFORD NEW BOOTS
NOSE AREA BLACKENED FROM INHALING SOOT
MAO-STYLE HAT
BLOODSHOT EYES FROM PHOTOCHEMICAL SMOG
ONE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT PER MONTH
WHIP LASH
TREMORS FROM INDUSTRIAL WASTE POISONING
MAXI FUNDOSHI UNDER WEAR

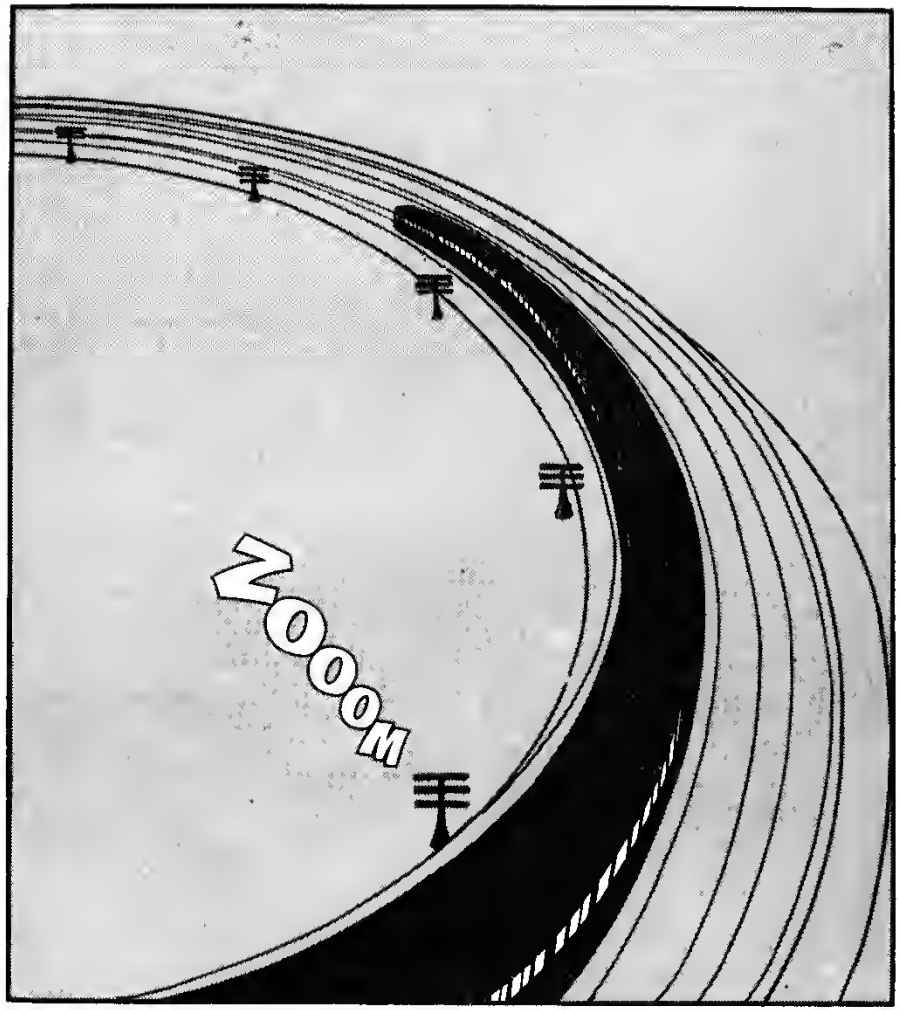

IT'S INTERESTING TO NOTE HOW ASTRO'S HEIGHT CHANGES IN DIFFERENT STORIES...


WHEN MORE REALISTIC AND ACTION-ORIENTED *GEKIGA* MANGA WERE POPULAR, ASTRO GOT TALLER.


BUT THE WEIRD THING IS, THE TALLER HE GOT...
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *COOL*.
THE LESS READERS LIKED HIM...

SO RIGHT AFTER THAT, I STARTED DRAWING HIM LIKE A CUTE LITTLE KID AGAIN...
...AND SURE ENOUGH, HIS POPULARITY WENT *UP*.
WHY, I DUNNO...

THE NEXT STORY, "THE SECRET OF THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRATORS", IS AN EXAMPLE OF ASTRO IN HIS SHORT 'N CUTESY PHASE...


ZOOOM

SNORT ZZZ... NEVER DO SLEEP WELL ON THESE BLASTED NIGHT EXPRESSES...

'SCUSE ME, SIR... IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?

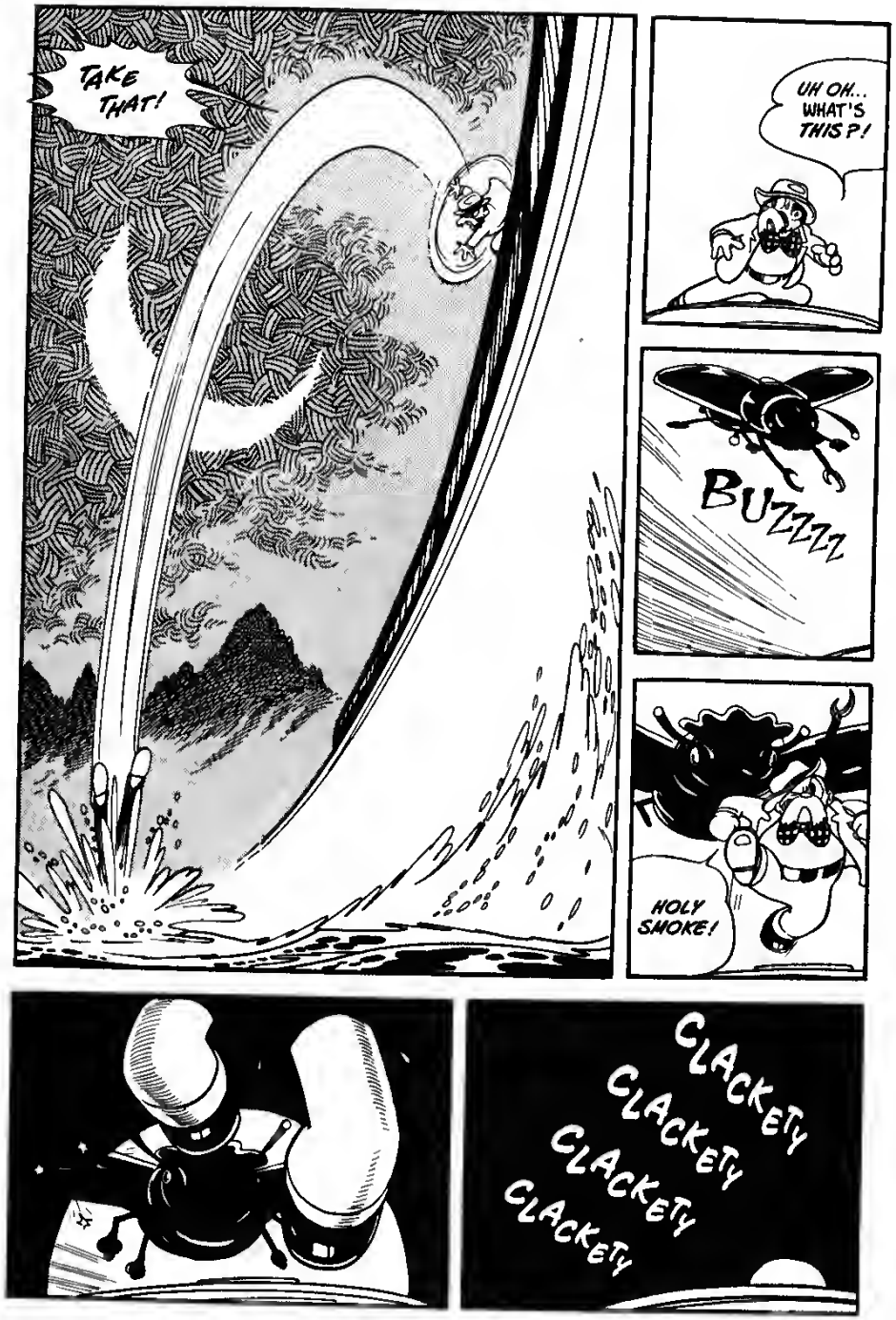
HARUMPH... WHY'D YOU HAVE TO SIT HERE? THERE'S LOTS OF OTHER SEATS OPEN...
'CUZ I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU, MR. MUSTACHIO...
HEY! WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY? YOU DON'T LOOK JAPANESE...
SHH!
THIS IS FOR YOU!
!
DON'T LET ANYONE SEE IT, AND WATCH OUT FOR THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRATORS!
?
SEE YOU LATER!
ROAR
CLACKETY CLACKETY CLACK

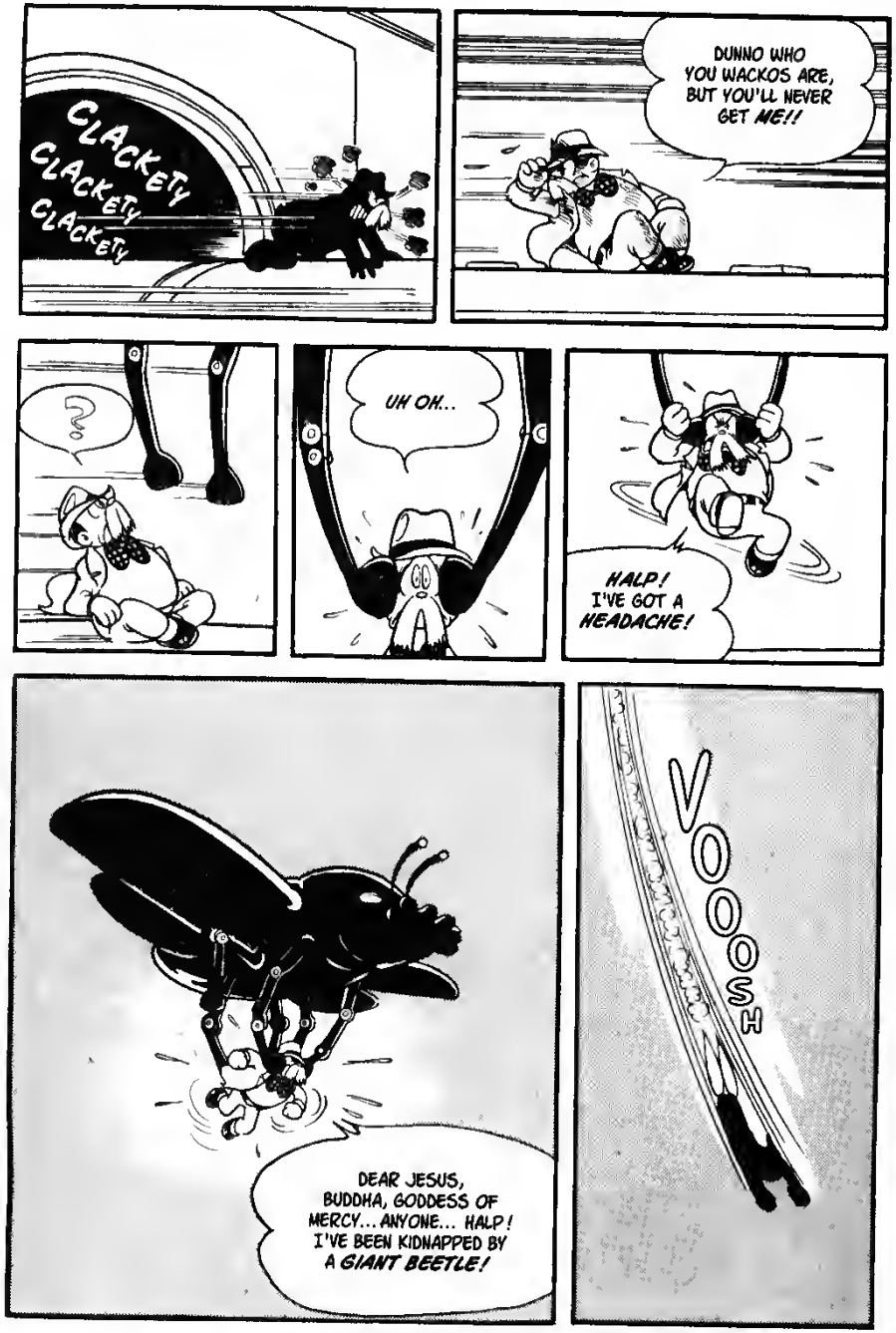
UH OH...
BZZZZZZ
VOOSH
HAALP!!
AIEEE!
WHERE'S THE PENDANT?
IT'S NOT ON HIM... HE MUST HAVE GIVEN IT TO SOMEONE ON THE TRAIN...

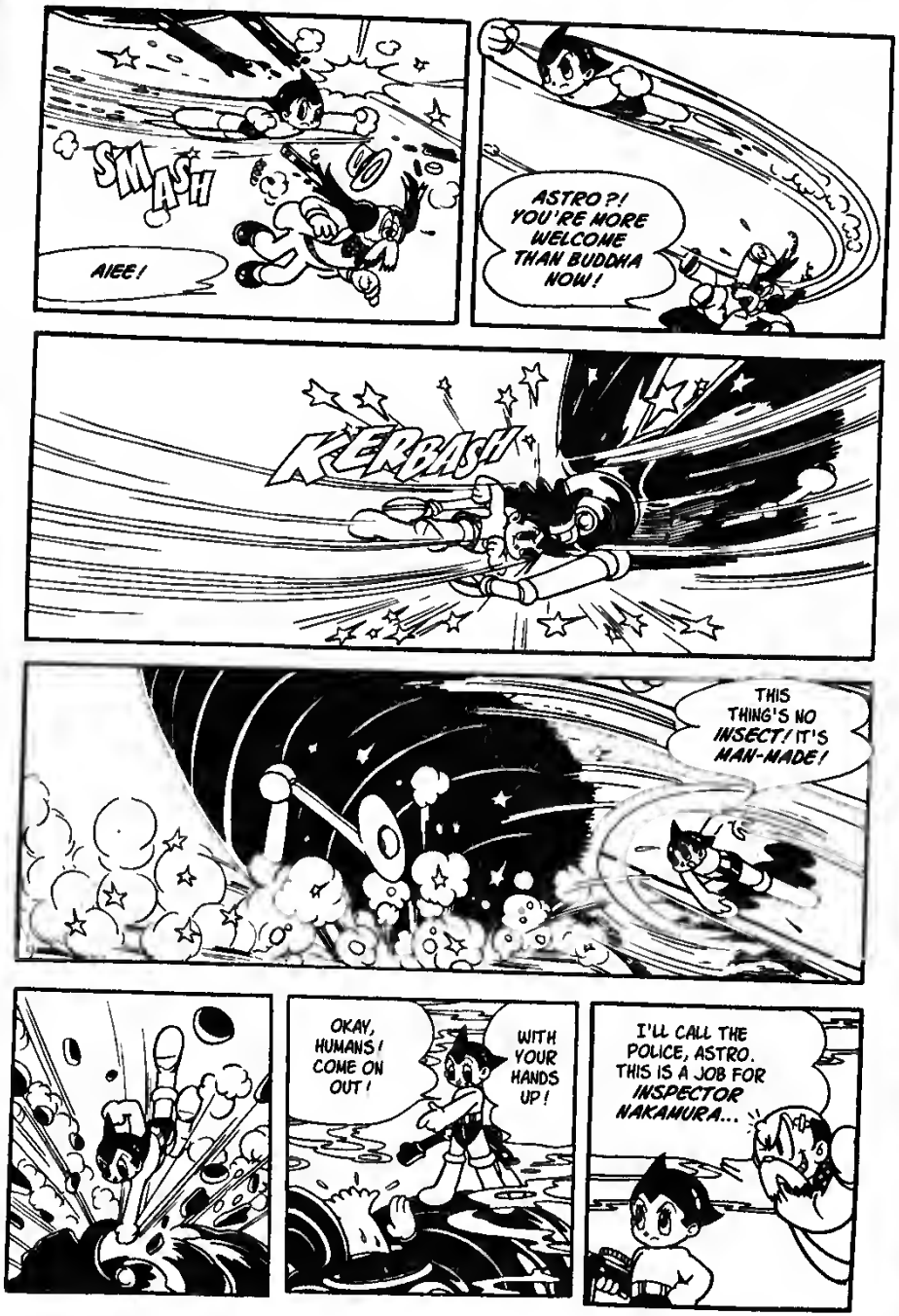
SO IT'S ON THE TRAIN THAT JUST PASSED US NOW...
BUZZZ
LET'S GO AFTER IT!!
POOAR
GOTTA TIME THIS RIGHT!
YOU GUYS TAKE THIS CAR...
IF YOU SPOT HIM, JAB HIM WITH THIS POISON NEEDLE SO NONE OF THE PASSENGERS'LL NOTICE...
SLAM!
=ZZZZZ=
=SNUFFLE SNORT=
KLUMP KLUMP KLUMP
KLUMP KLUMP KLUMP
KLUMP KLUMP
KLUMP KLUMP

KLUMP KLUMP
KLUMP?
HE'S THE ONE...
TAKE THIS!!
FOOL! THOUGHT I WOULDN'T NOTICE YOU, EH?!
WHO SENT YOU, MR. HIT MAN? FESS UP, OR I'LL RIP YOUR ARM OFF!
WHAT THE--?! IT REALLY CAME OFF!!
POP
MY MISTAKE, SIR!!
HMPH. IT'S A PROSTHESIS, POPS! NOW HAND OVER WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN YOUR POCKET...
HEH... YOU CAN'T SHOOT! THE NOISE'LL GIVE YOU AWAY!!
SORRY, PAL, BUT I'M USING A SILENCER...

THEN IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BE SILENT!
WHY, OH, WHY...
...DO I GET CAUGHT UP IN THESE THINGS?!
NOBODY MAKES A FOOL OUT OF THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRATORS AND LIVES, POPS...
BLAST IT! THE DOOR TO THE NEXT CAR'S LOCKED!
JUDO, BOXING? KARATE? PRO WRESTLING? AIKIDO? MUSTACHIO CAN HANDLE 'EM ALL!
HERE WE GO, EVIL MANGA CHARACTERS GALORE!


TAKE THAT!
UH OH... WHAT'S THIS?!
BUZZZZ
HOLY SMOKE!
CLACKETY CLACKETY CLACKETY CLACKETY


CLACKETY CLACKETY CLACKETY
DUNNO WHO YOU WACKOS ARE, BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!!
?
UH OH...
HALP! I'VE GOT A HEADACHE!
DEAR JESUS, BUDDHA, GODDESS OF MERCY... ANYONE... HALP! I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY A GIANT BEETLE!
VOOOSH


SMASH
AIEE!
ASTRO?! YOU'RE MORE WELCOME THAN BUDDHA NOW!
KERBASH
THIS THING'S NO INSECT! IT'S MAN-MADE!
OKAY, HUMANS! COME ON OUT!
WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE, ASTRO. THIS IS A JOB FOR INSPECTOR NAKAMURA...

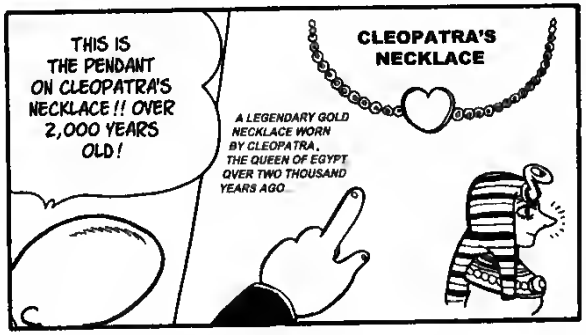
THE VERY NEXT DAY...

SO THIS IS THE LITTLE THING THAT WOUND UP IN MY POSSESSION...

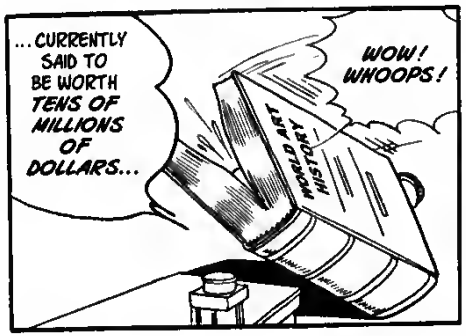
HMM... LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF ORNAMENT...

WAIT A SEC... I'M SURE I'VE SEEN THIS THING IN A BOOK SOMEWHERE...

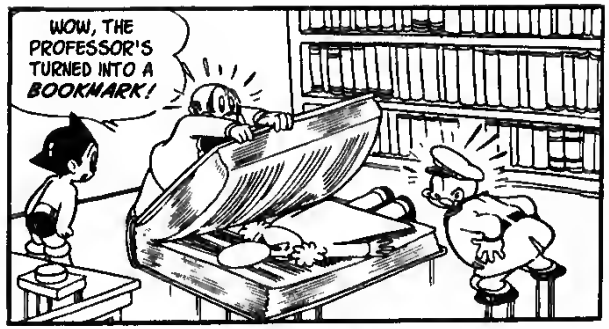
HERE WE GO!
WORLD A
HISTORY


THIS IS THE PENDANT ON CLEOPATRA'S NECKLACE!! OVER 2,000 YEARS OLD!
CLEOPATRA'S NECKLACE
A LEGENDARY GOLD NECKLACE WORN BY CLEOPATRA, THE QUEEN OF EGYPT, OVER TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

WORLD ART HISTORY
SAYS IT'S ONE OF THE GREAT MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD...


...CURRENTLY SAID TO BE WORTH TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS...
WOW! WHOOPS!
WORLD ART HISTORY

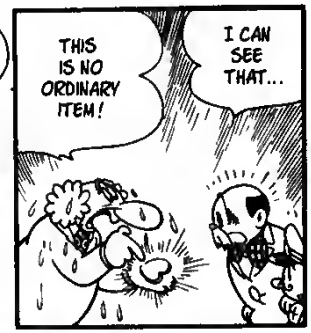
OOMPH!
HALP!

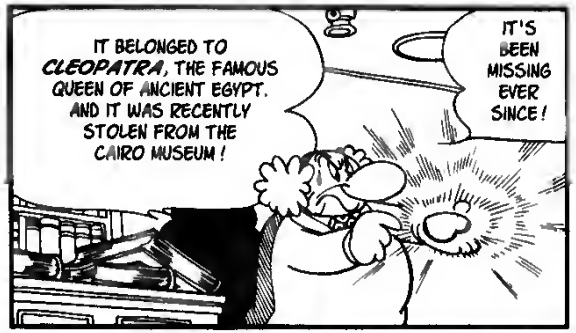

WOW, THE PROFESSOR'S TURNED INTO A BOOKMARK!

SOMETIMES WE REALLY DO ACT LIKE CARTOON CHARACTERS...

I'M TELLING YOU, THIS IS REALLY CREEPY!!

CREEPY? I'M GONNA RUN!
WAIT! LEMME EXPLAIN!


THIS IS NO ORDINARY ITEM!
I CAN SEE THAT...

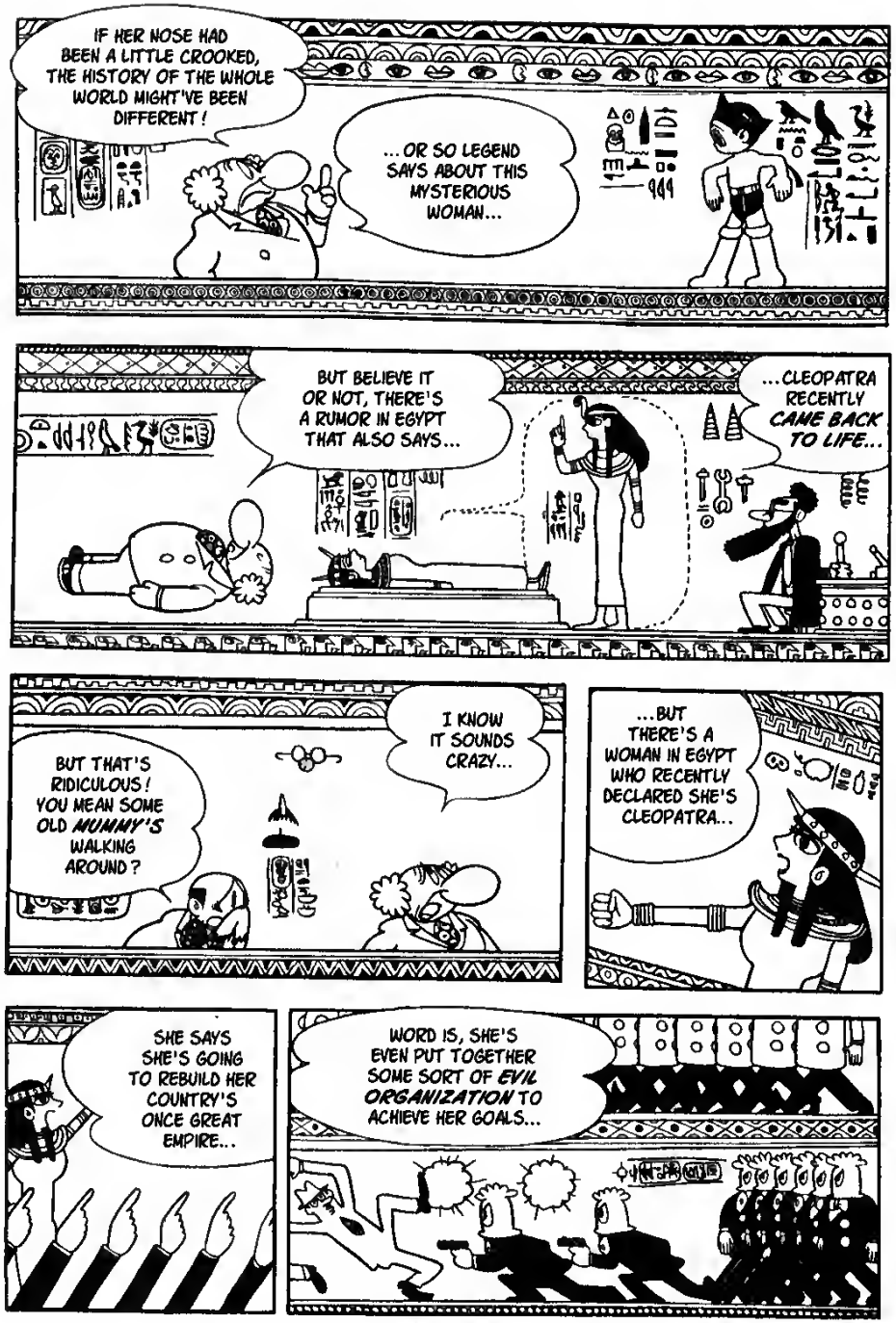

IT BELONGED TO CLEOPATRA, THE FAMOUS QUEEN OF ANCIENT EGYPT. AND IT WAS RECENTLY STOLEN FROM THE CAIRO MUSEUM!
IT'S BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE!

HMM. SO CLEOPATRA WORE IT HERSELF, EH?

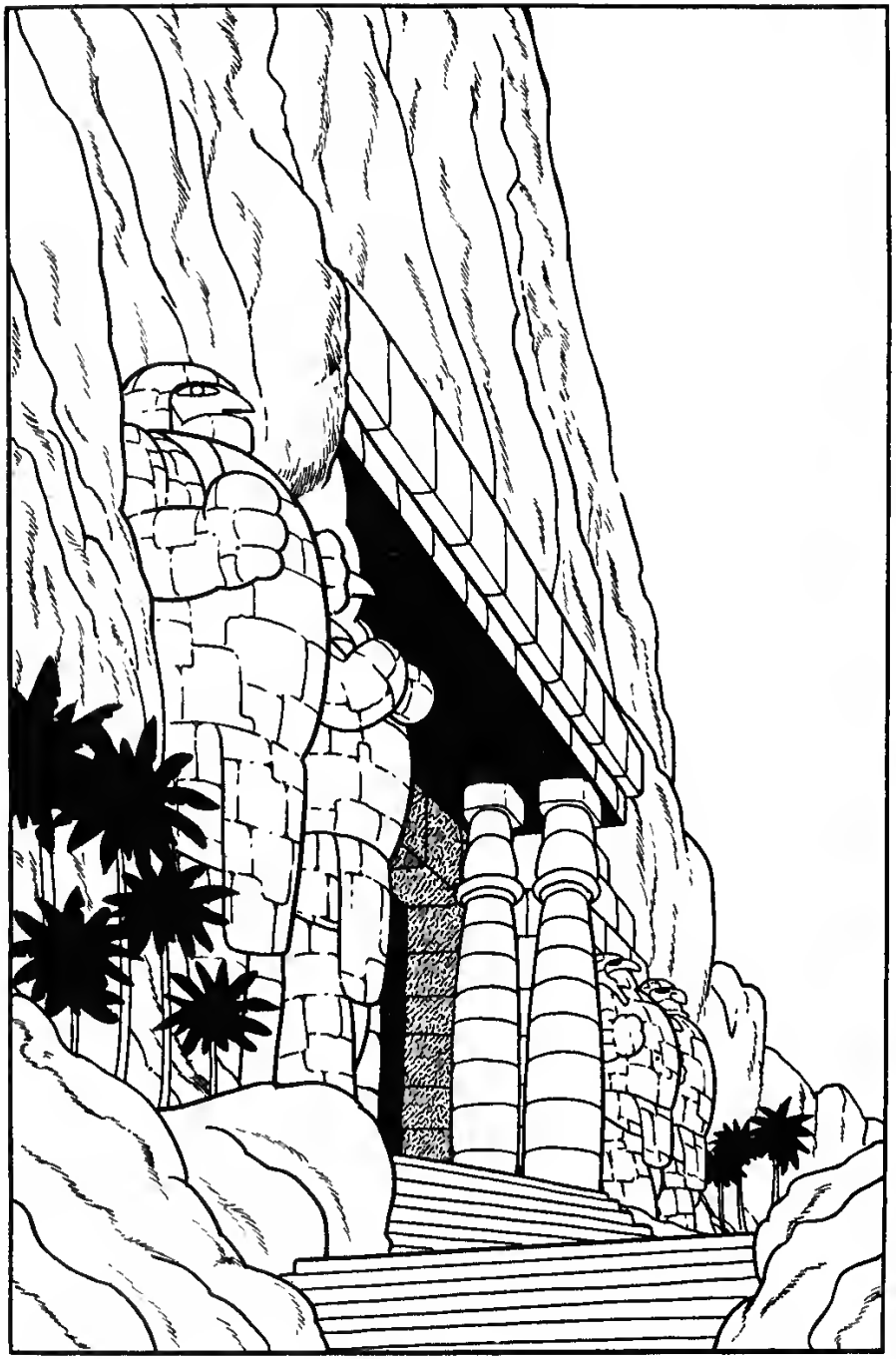
WASN'T SHE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD?

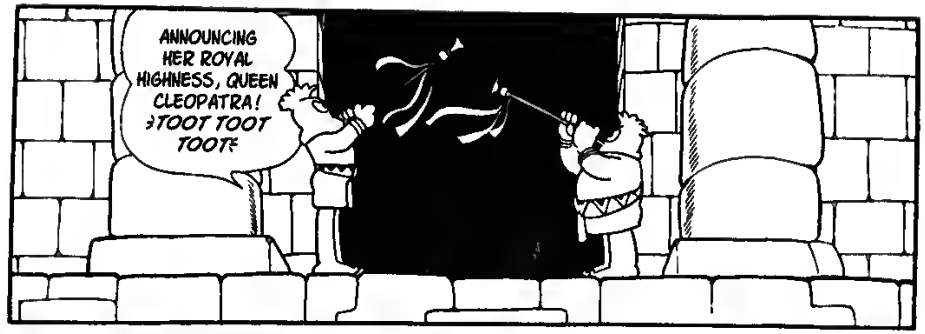
CLEOPATRA!

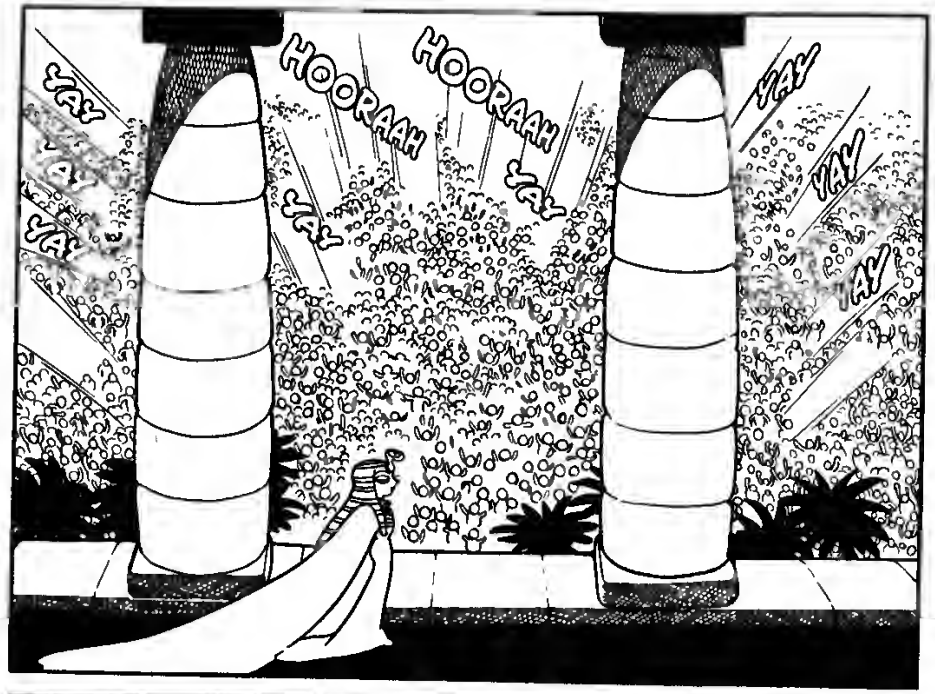
THE QUEEN OF EGYPT TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

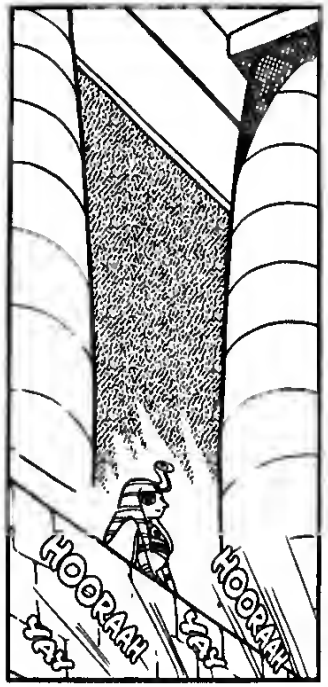

IF HER NOSE HAD BEEN A LITTLE CROOKED, THE HISTORY OF THE WHOLE WORLD MIGHT'VE BEEN DIFFERENT!
...OR SO LEGEND SAYS ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS WOMAN...
BUT BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE'S A RUMOR IN EGYPT THAT ALSO SAYS...
...CLEOPATRA RECENTLY CAME BACK TO LIFE...
BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS! YOU MEAN SOME OLD MUMMY'S WALKING AROUND?
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY...
...BUT THERE'S A WOMAN IN EGYPT WHO RECENTLY DECLARED SHE'S CLEOPATRA...
SHE SAYS SHE'S GOING TO REBUILD HER COUNTRY'S ONCE GREAT EMPIRE...
WORD IS, SHE'S EVEN PUT TOGETHER SOME SORT OF EVIL ORGANIZATION TO ACHIEVE HER GOALS...

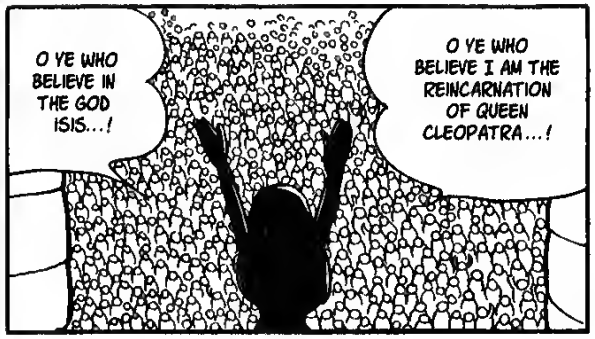
THIS PENDANT WAS USED BY THE REAL CLEOPATRA AT HER CORONATION...
SO THE FAKE CLEOPATRA MAY BE PLANNING TO USE THIS GEM...
...AND CROWN HERSELF QUEEN OF EGYPT!
GIVEN WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE FLYING SHIP...
...SHE'S ALREADY PUT TOGETHER A SECRET ORGANIZATION THAT HAS SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY...
...AND HER HENCHMEN WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET THIS BACK...
HERE, ASTRO...
I WANT YOU TO PUT IT IN YOUR CHEST CAVITY...
NO ONE'LL NOTICE IF YOU HAVE IT, ASTRO. SO I WANT YOU TO KEEP IT SAFE, UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON...
YESSIR, PROFESSOR...
=HARUMPH!= NOW THINGS REALLY GET INTERESTING! A REAL ROYAL BATTLE OVER THIS THING!

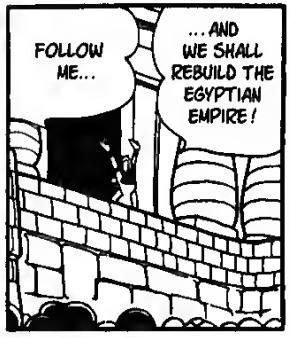


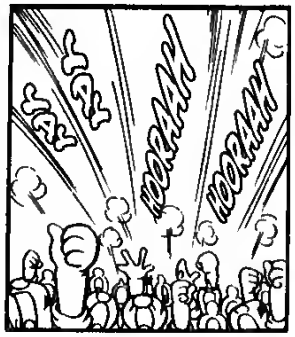

ANNOUNCING HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, QUEEN CLEOPATRA! TOOT TOOT TOOT


YAY
YAY
YAY
HOORAAH
YAY
HOORAAH
YAY
YAY
YAY
YAY


HOORAH!
HOORAH!
HOORAH!


O YE WHO BELIEVE IN THE GOD ISIS...!
O YE WHO BELIEVE I AM THE REINCARNATION OF QUEEN CLEOPATRA...!

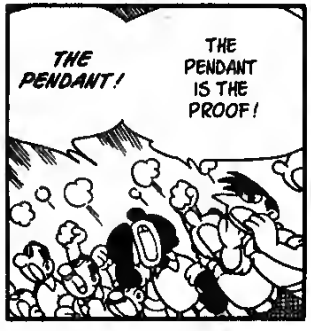

FOLLOW ME...
...AND WE SHALL REBUILD THE EGYPTIAN EMPIRE!

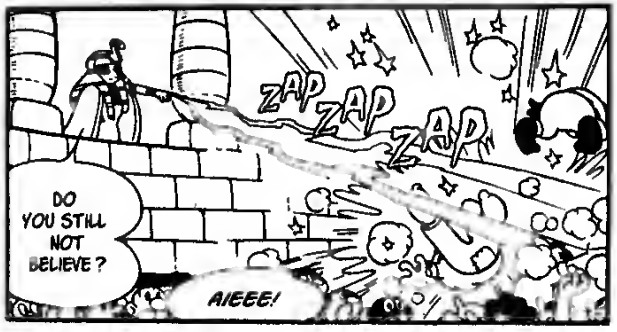

HOORAH!
HOORAH!
HOORAH!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! IT'S CRAZY!!

AND I DON'T FEEL LIKE FOLLOWING YOU! YOU SAY YOU'RE A REINCARNATION OF CLEOPATRA...

...BUT WHERE'S THE PROOF? WHERE'S THE PROOF?


THE PENDANT!
THE PENDANT IS THE PROOF!


ZAP ZAP ZAP
DO YOU STILL NOT BELIEVE?
AIEEE!

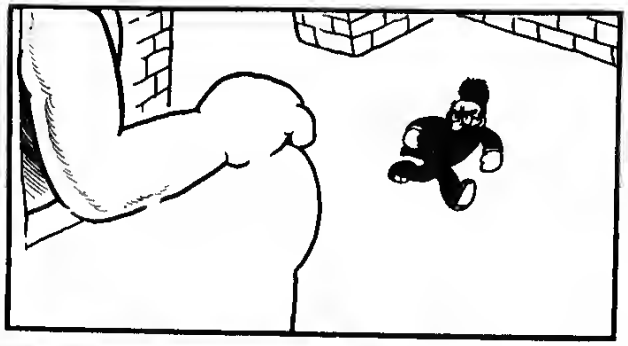
SO WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION ABOUT?

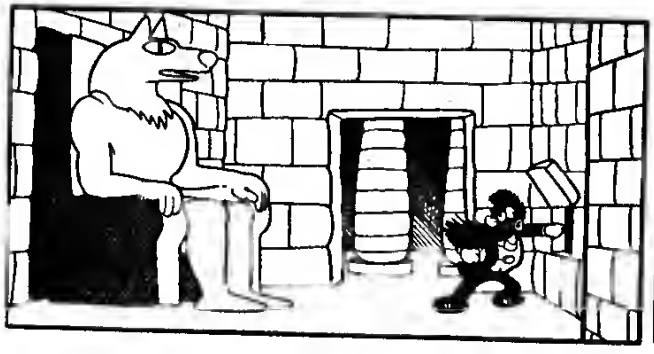
YOU MEAN SOME OF YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE IN QUEEN CLEOPATRA?

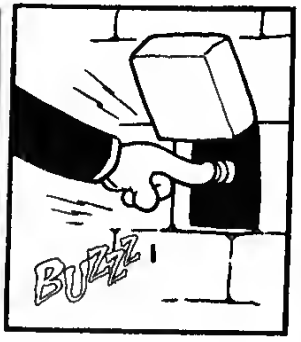
DIDN'T YOU SEE? THE UNBELIEVERS WERE JUST STRUCK BY LIGHTNING!

JUST WAIT! THE GOD ISIS WILL ASSIST US IN OUR GOAL!

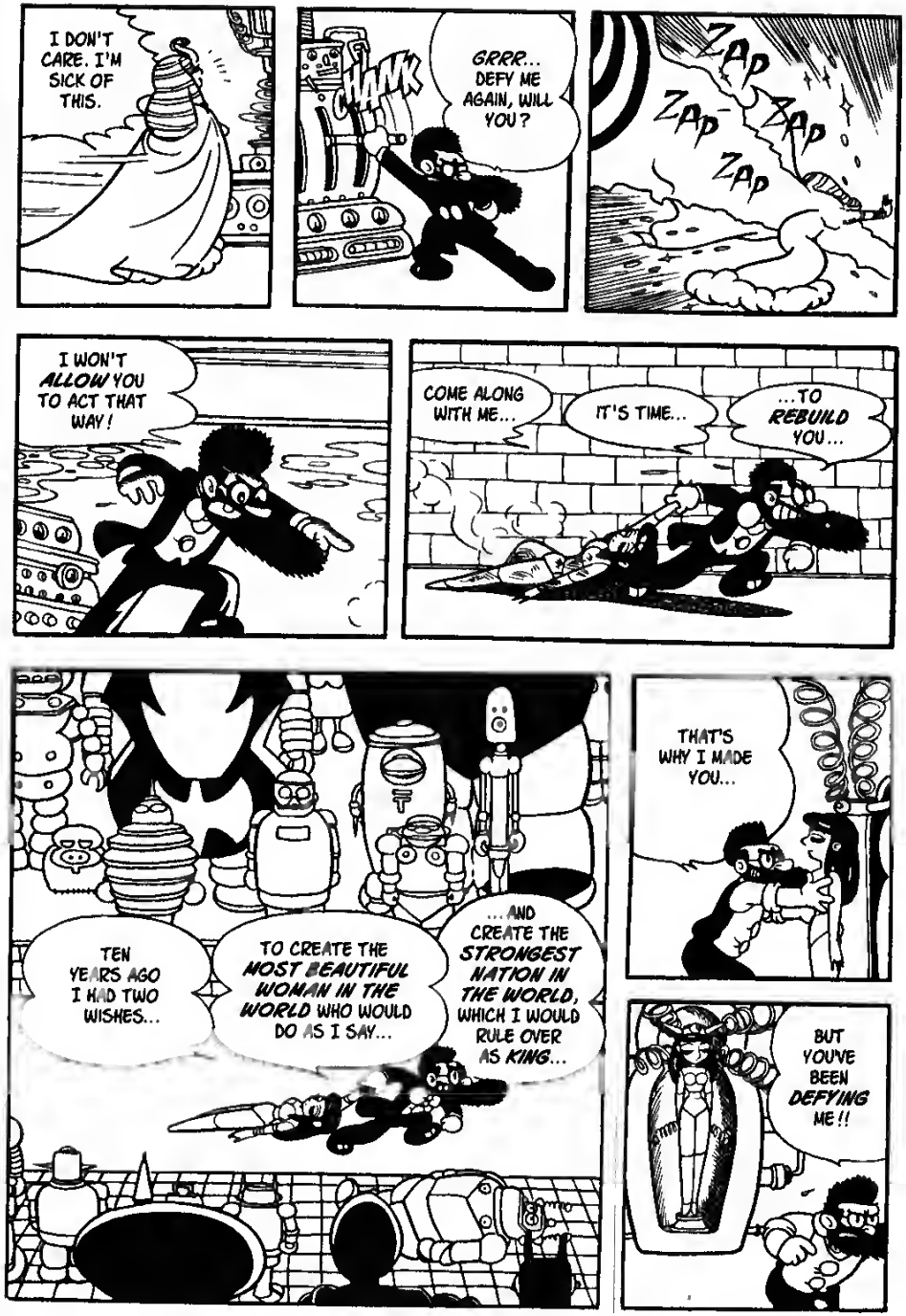
THE UNBELIEVERS HAVE DISPLEASED THE QUEEN! THE CEREMONY IS TEMPORARILY CANCELLED!





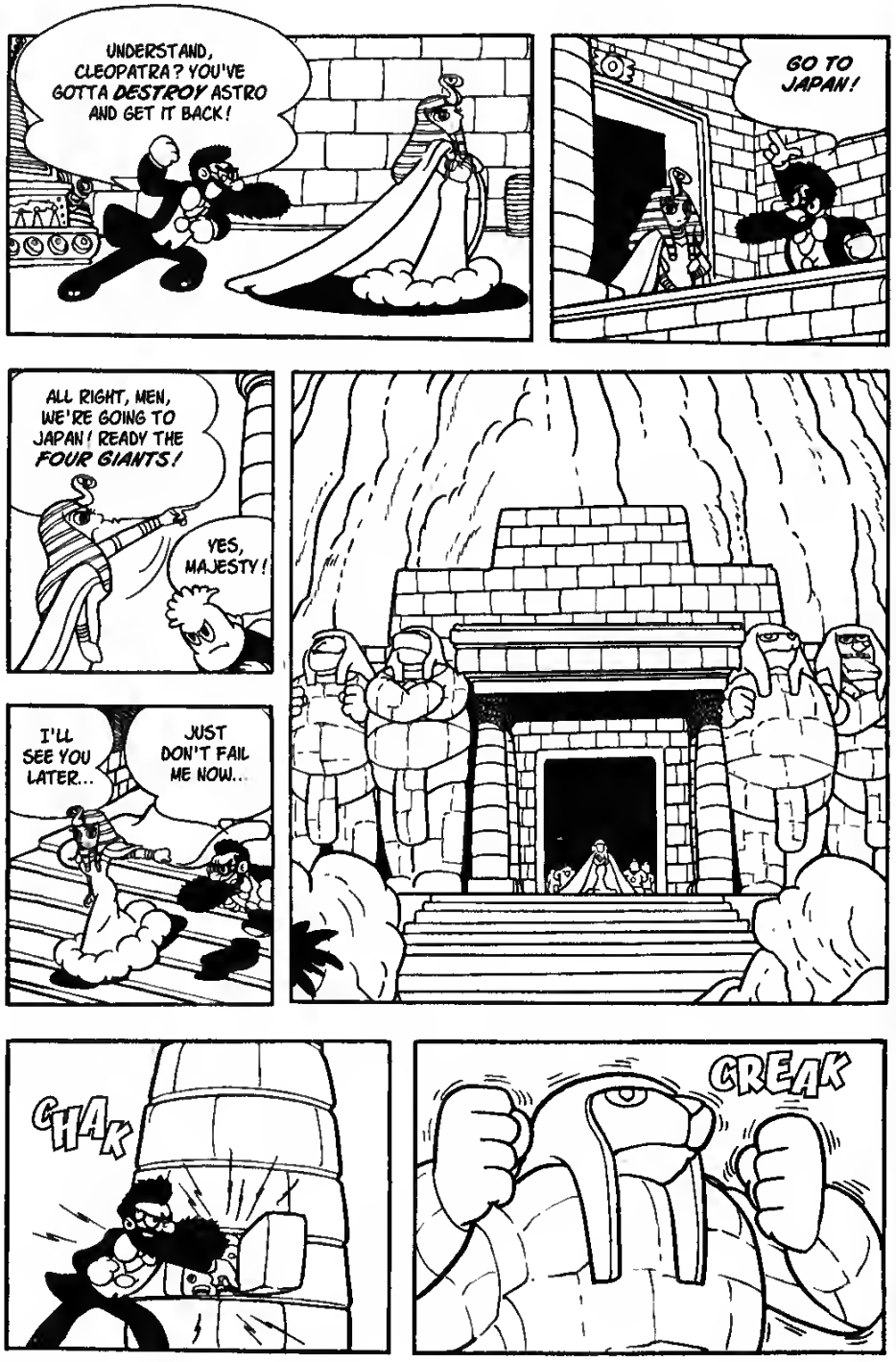

BUZZ!

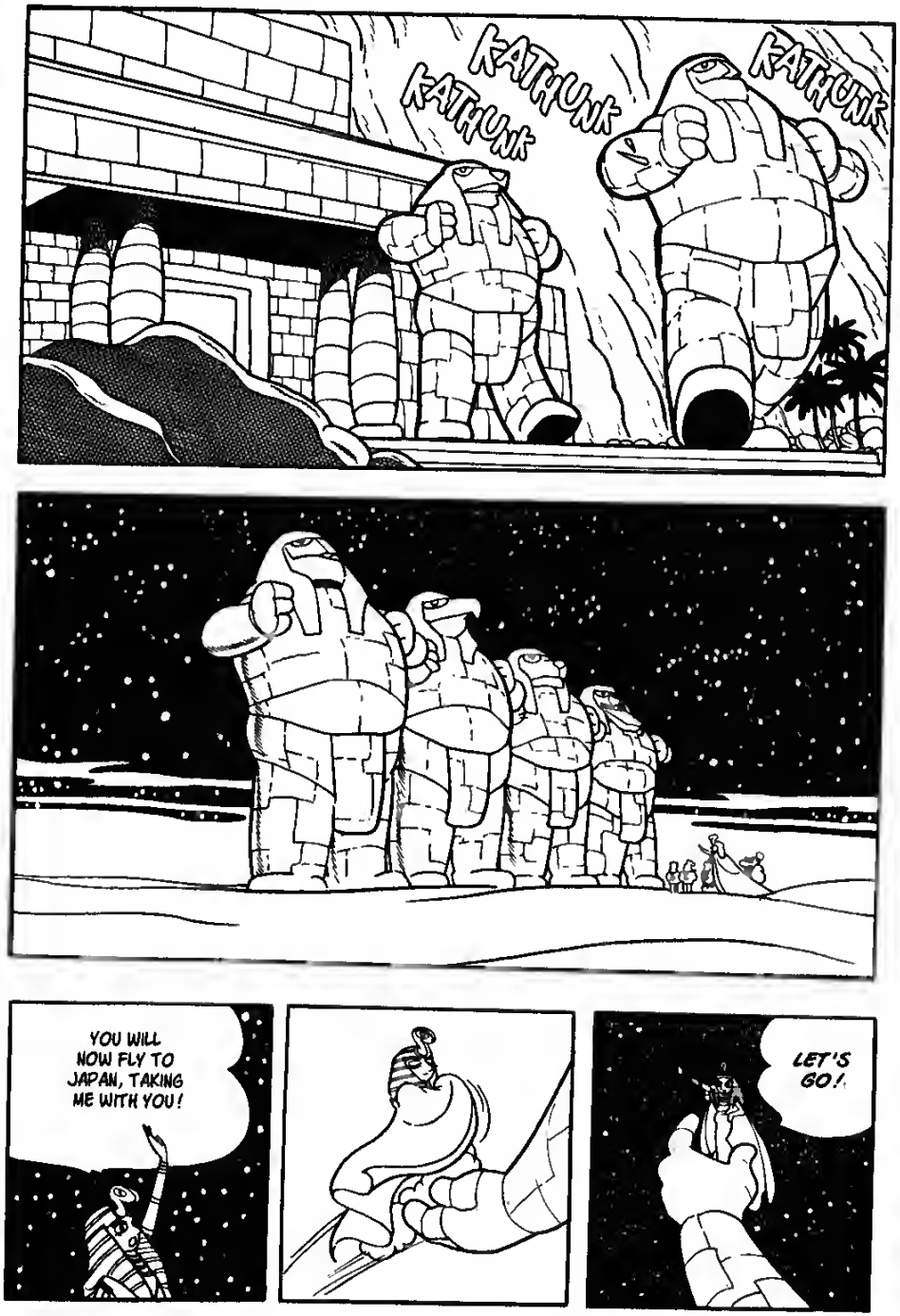
CREAAK
CREAAK
OKAY, CLEOPATRA
WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY LEAVE...?
BECAUSE I'M SICK OF THAT STUFF...
SICK OF IT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE THE QUEEN OF THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRATORS!
BUT I'M ALSO A ROBOT! MADE BY YOU!
OF COURSE YOU ARE! AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO OBEY ME!


I DON'T CARE. I'M SICK OF THIS.
CHAK
GRRR... DEFY ME AGAIN, WILL YOU?
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO ACT THAT WAY!
COME ALONG WITH ME...
IT'S TIME...
...TO REBUILD YOU...
TEN YEARS AGO I HAD TWO WISHES...
TO CREATE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD WHO WOULD DO AS I SAY...
...AND CREATE THE STRONGEST NATION IN THE WORLD, WHICH I WOULD RULE OVER AS KING...
THAT'S WHY I MADE YOU...
BUT YOU'VE BEEN DEFYING ME!!

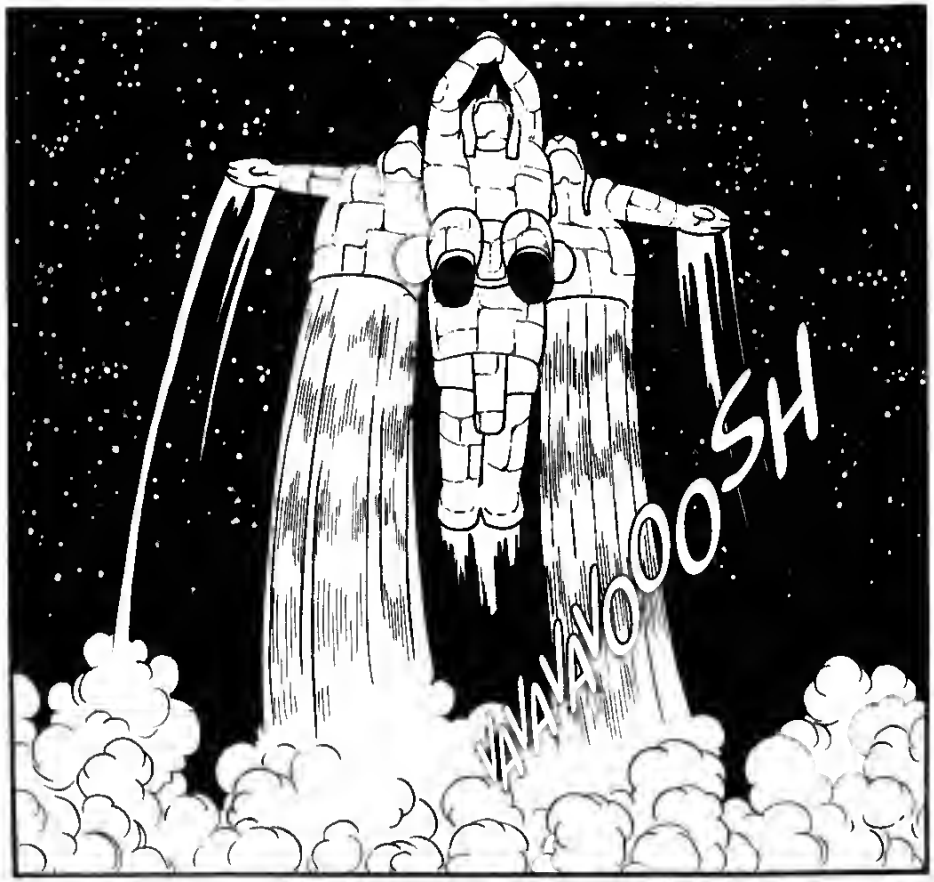
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
HMMMMM
ROBOTS THESE DAYS ARE TOO INDEPENDENT-MINDED!
SO I'M GONNA MAKE SURE YOU NEVER TALK BACK TO ME AGAIN! NEVER, EVER!
WALK!
TURN LEFT!
FWP
TURN RIGHT!
KILL 'IM!
KABASH
NOW LOOK AT ME!

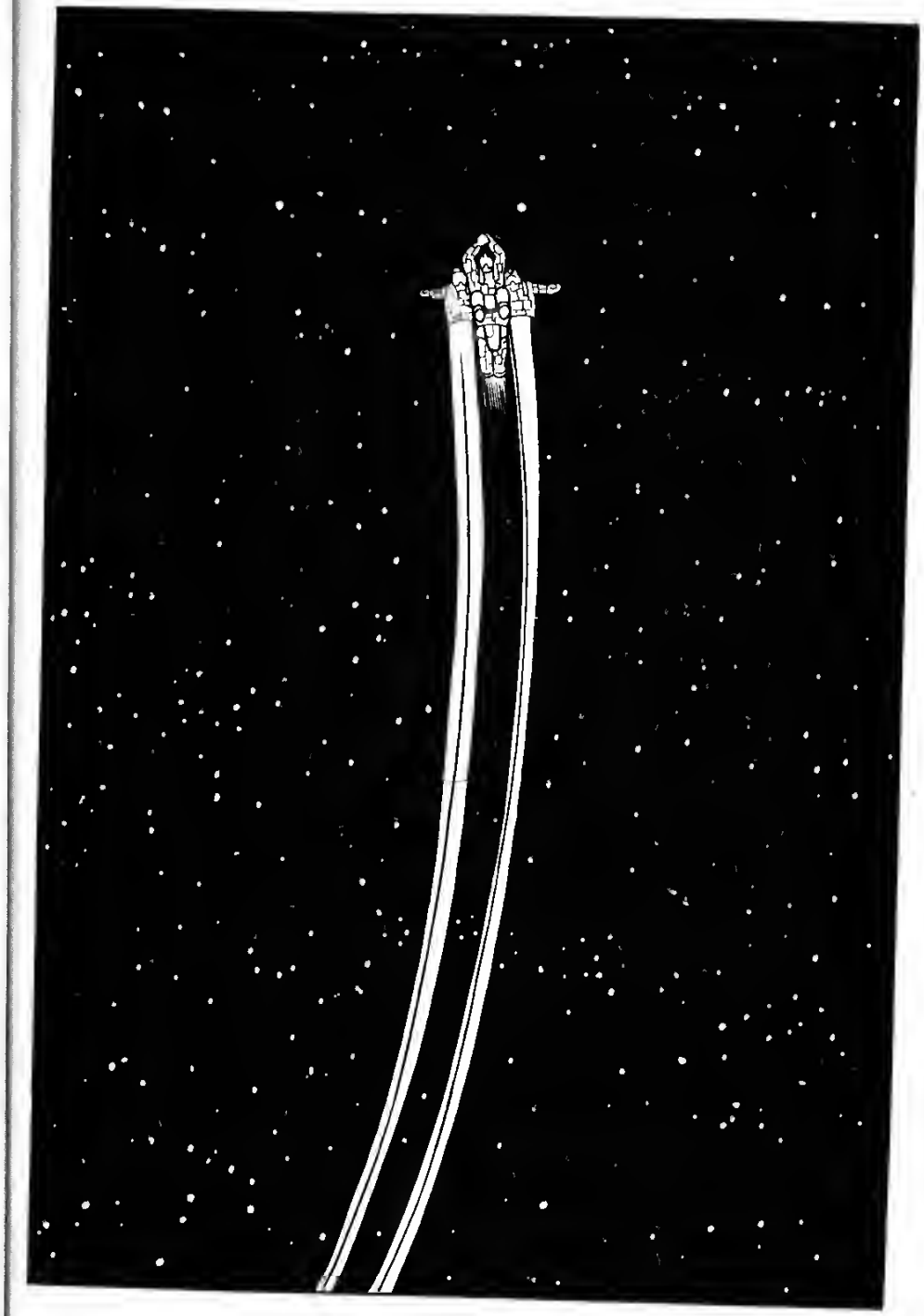
YOU'RE MY DAUGHTER, UNDERSTAND?! YOU'LL DO EVERYTHING I SAY!
YES, SIR...
YOU'RE ALSO THE QUEEN, SO YOU HAVE TO GET RID OF ANYONE WHO DEFIES YOU!
YES, SIR...
GOOD GIRL! THAT'S MY GIRL!
UH OH... SOMEONE'S COMING! PUT YOUR ROBES ON!
WELL, WHAT IS IT?
WE'VE LOCATED THE PENDANT THAT PROVES YOU'RE CLEOPATRA!
WHAT?! YOU FOUND IT? WHERE?!
IN JAPAN! WE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT FROM ONE OF OUR AGENTS THERE...
A ROBOT NAMED ASTRO APPARENTLY HAS IT!
ASTRO?!

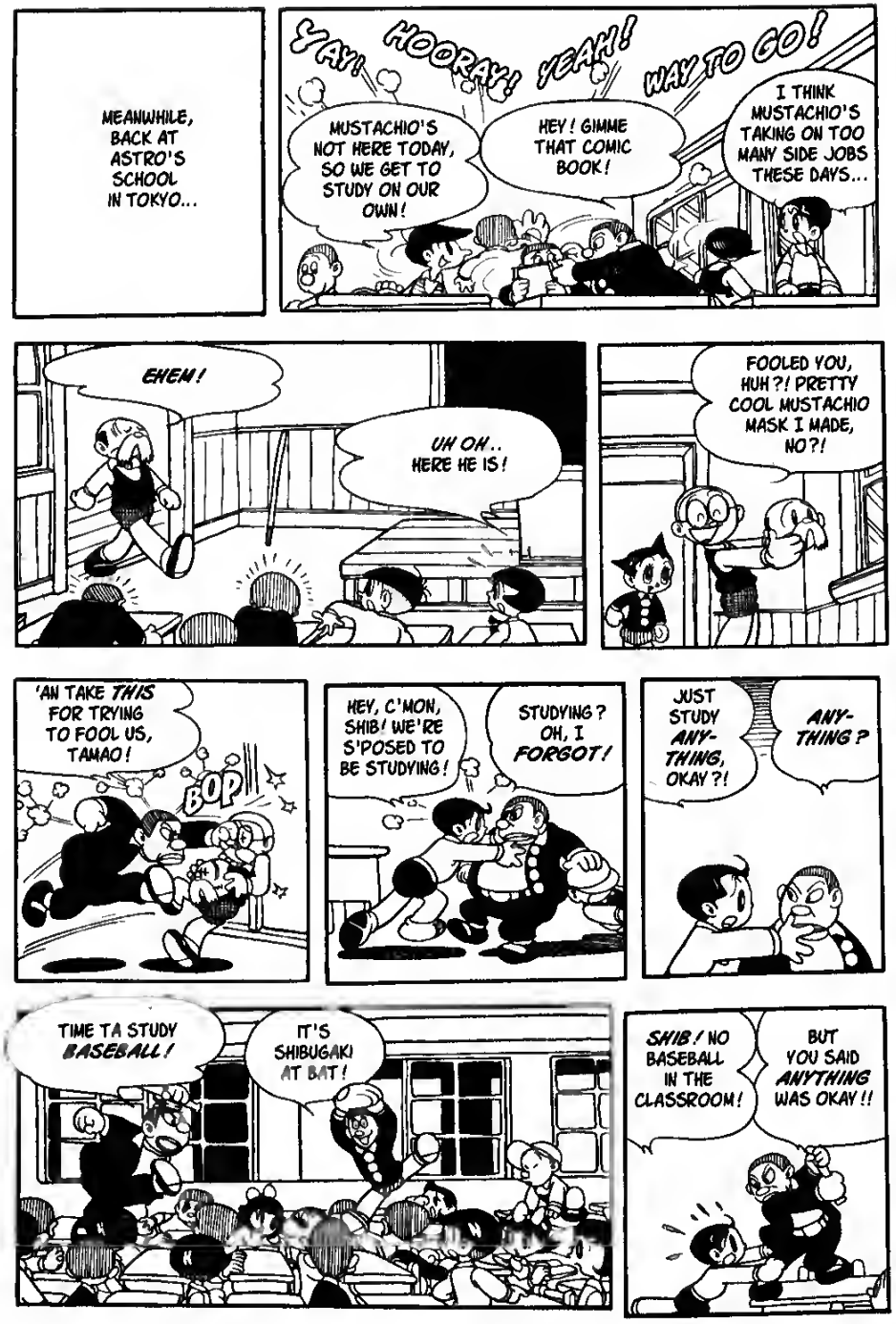

UNDERSTAND, CLEOPATRA? YOU'VE GOTTA DESTROY ASTRO AND GET IT BACK!
GO TO JAPAN!
ALL RIGHT, MEN, WE'RE GOING TO JAPAN! READY THE FOUR GIANTS!
YES, MAJESTY!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER...
JUST DON'T FAIL ME NOW...
CHAK
CREAK

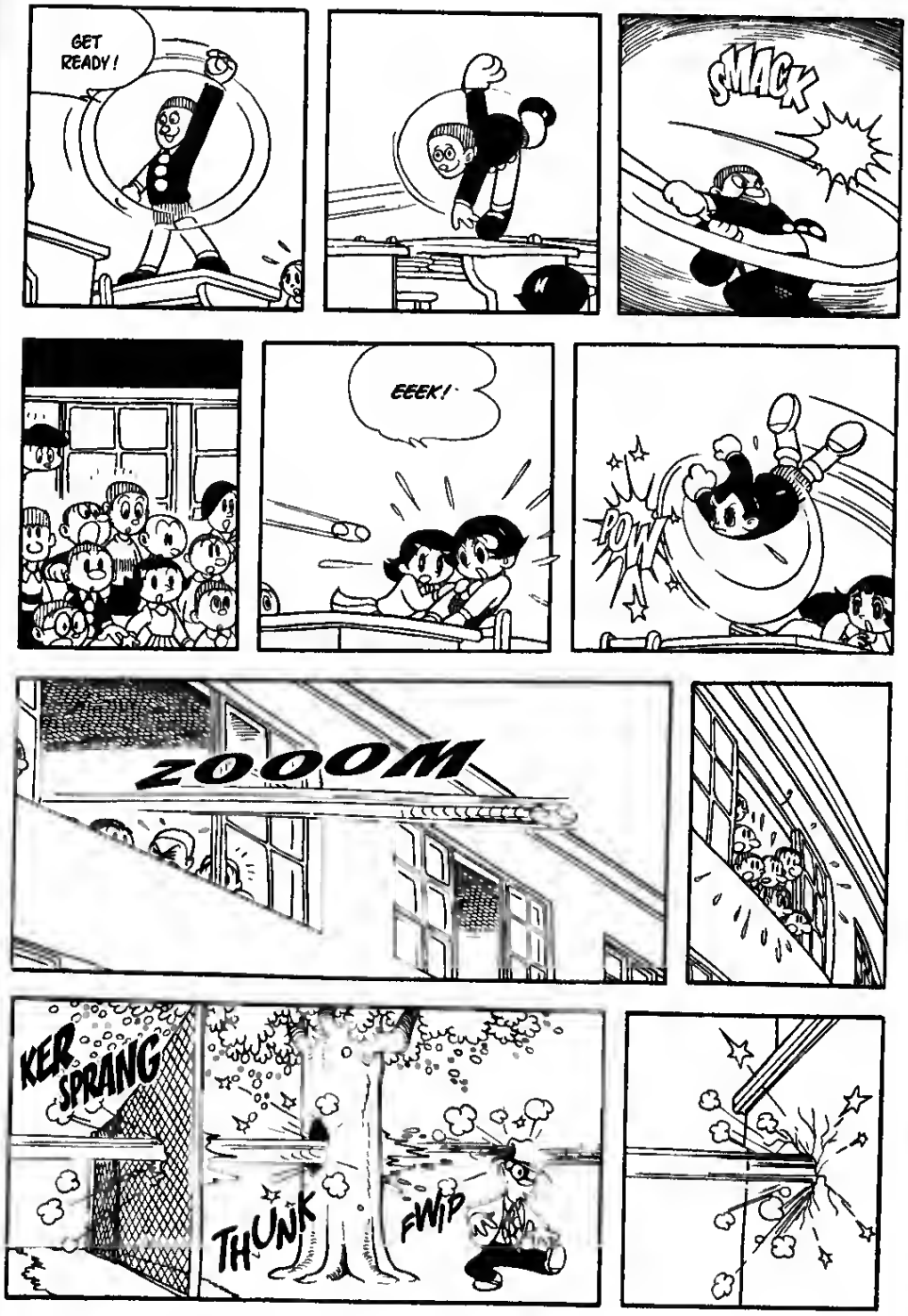

KATHUNK
KATHUNK
KATHUNK
YOU WILL NOW FLY TO JAPAN, TAKING ME WITH YOU!
LET'S GO!

KACHUNK


WAYOOOSH



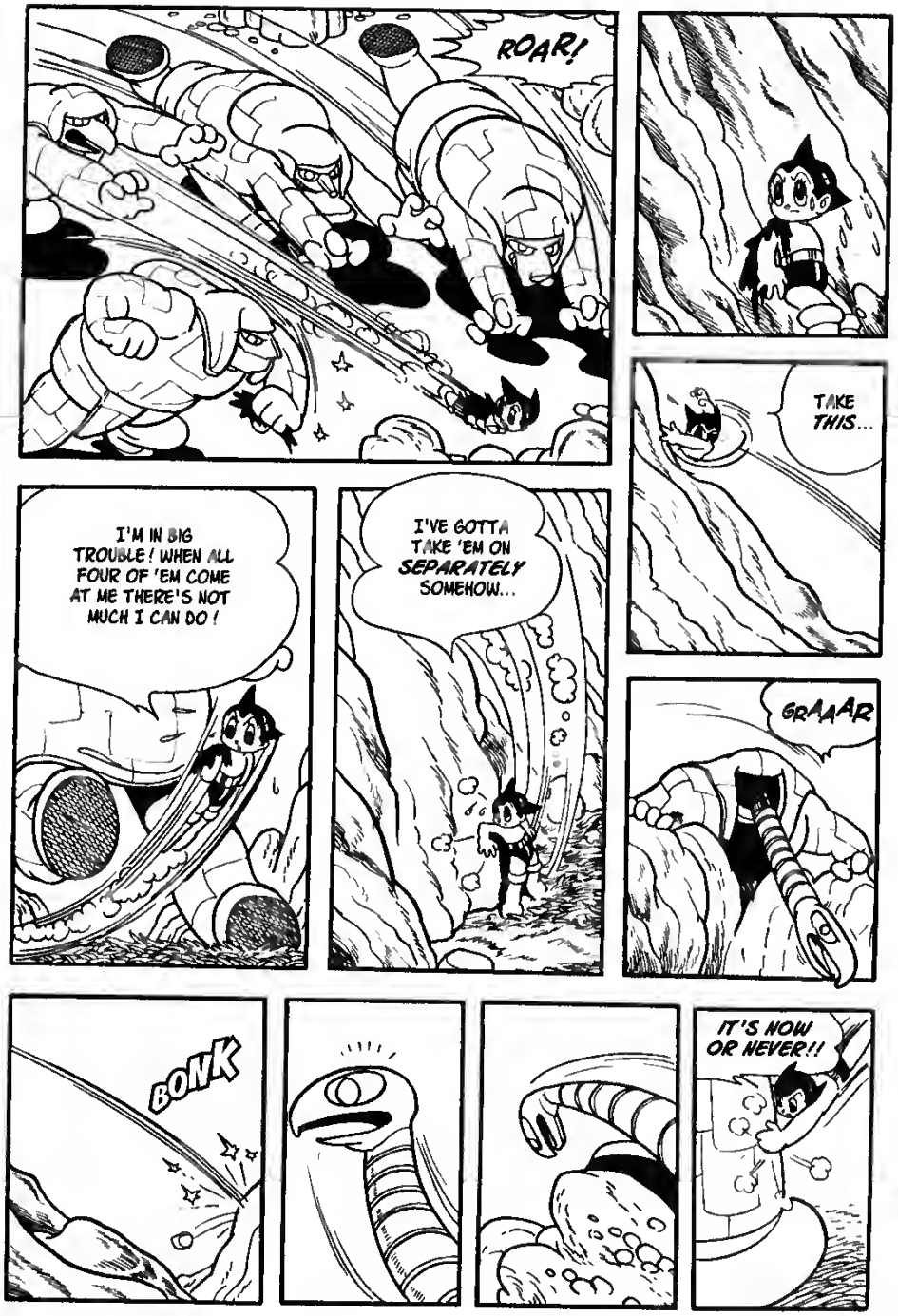

MEANWHILE, BACK AT ASTRO'S SCHOOL IN TOKYO...
YAY!
HOORAY!
YEAH!
WAY TO GO!
MUSTACHIO'S NOT HERE TODAY, SO WE GET TO STUDY ON OUR OWN!
HEY! GIMME THAT COMIC BOOK!
I THINK MUSTACHIO'S TAKING ON TOO MANY SIDE JOBS THESE DAYS...
EHEM!
UH OH.. HERE HE IS!
FOOLED YOU, HUH?! PRETTY COOL MUSTACHIO MASK I MADE, NO?!
'AN TAKE THIS FOR TRYING TO FOOL US, TAMAO!
BOP!
HEY, C'MON, SHIB! WE'RE S'POSED TO BE STUDYING!
STUDYING? OH, I FORGOT!
JUST STUDY ANY-THING, OKAY?!
ANY-THING?
TIME TA STUDY BASEBALL!
IT'S SHIBUGAKI AT BAT!
SHIB! NO BASEBALL IN THE CLASSROOM!
BUT YOU SAID ANYTHING WAS OKAY!!

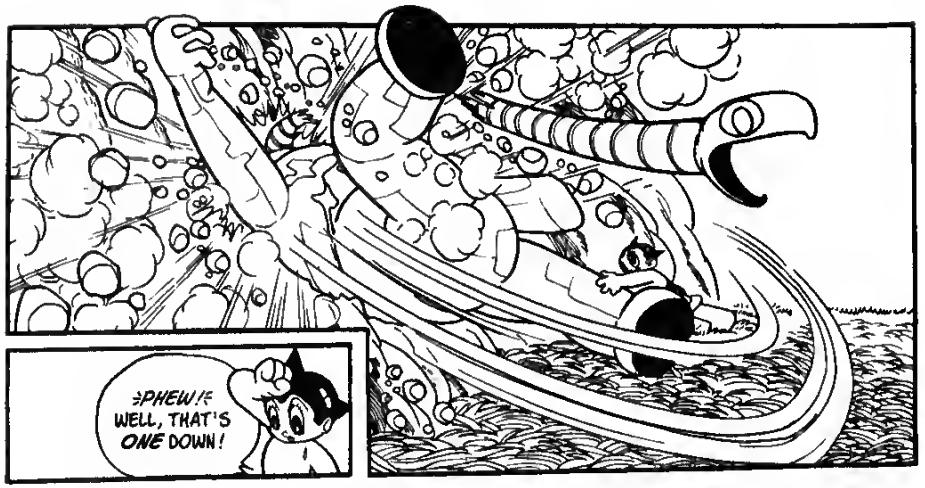

GET READY!
SMACK
EEEK!
POW
ZOOOM
KER SPRANG
THUNK
FWIP

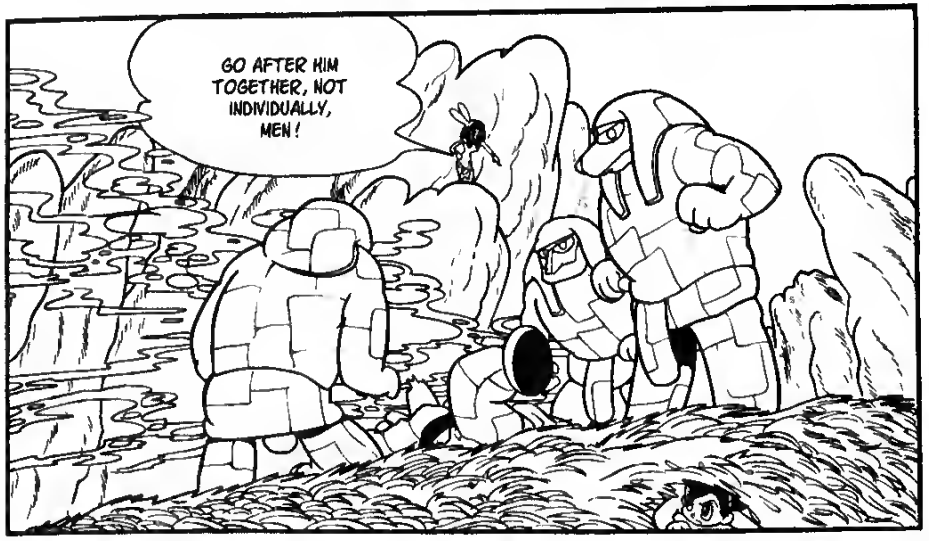
BASH
SMACK
DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET THE BALL BACK!
WOW... ASTRO'S AMAZING!
SO'S THE GIRL WHO CAUGHT THAT THING...
EOW
YOU MUST BE MASTER ASTRO...
ER... YEAH...
I'M A ROBOT, TOO...
REALLY? I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE...
MY NAME'S CLEOPATRA...
CLEOPATRA?!
SUR-PRISED?
SO YOU'RE THE QUEEN WHO HEADS THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRATORS!
THAT'S RIGHT. I JUST ARRIVED HERE IN JAPAN...
UM... C'N YOU GIVE ME BACK THE BALL?

SURE, IF YOU GIVE ME THE PENDANT...
PENDANT?
NO WAY! YOU'LL NEVER GET THAT FROM ME!
BUT I NEED IT TO PROVE I'M THE QUEEN! SO GIVE IT TO ME!
NO!
FWP
IF YOU'RE REALLY A ROBOT...
...USE YOUR ELECTRO-BRAIN! YOU'LL KNOW YOU'RE NOT S'POSED TO BE DOING THIS!
AH, BUT SOMEBODY ORDERED ME TO!
"ORDERED" YOU? WHO?!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE QUEEN!
THE MAN WHO MADE ME ORDERED ME...
IN OTHER WORDS, MY FATHER...
THEN HE'S A BAD PERSON!!!

IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T DISOBEY HIM! ...COME ON OUT, GUARDS!
SHOONK
THESE FOUR MEN ARE HERE TO HELP ME. WHEN COMBINED, THEY'RE EVEN STRONGER THAN YOU, ASTRO!
WELL, I'M ONLY GOING TO ASK YOU FOR THE BALL ONE MORE TIME!!
I DON'T GIVE IN TO THREATS LIKE THIS!!
GET HIM, GUARDS!

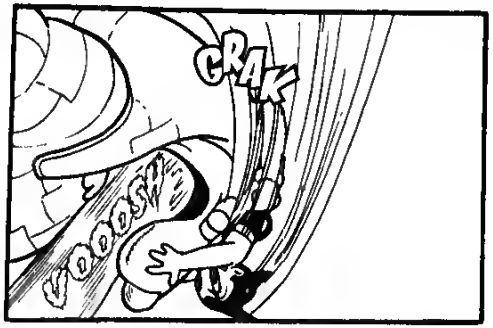

ROAR!
TAKE THIS...
I'M IN BIG TROUBLE! WHEN ALL FOUR OF 'EM COME AT ME THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO!
I'VE GOTTA TAKE 'EM ON SEPARATELY SOMEHOW...
GRAAAR
BONK
IT'S NOW OR NEVER!!


PHEW!
WELL, THAT'S ONE DOWN!

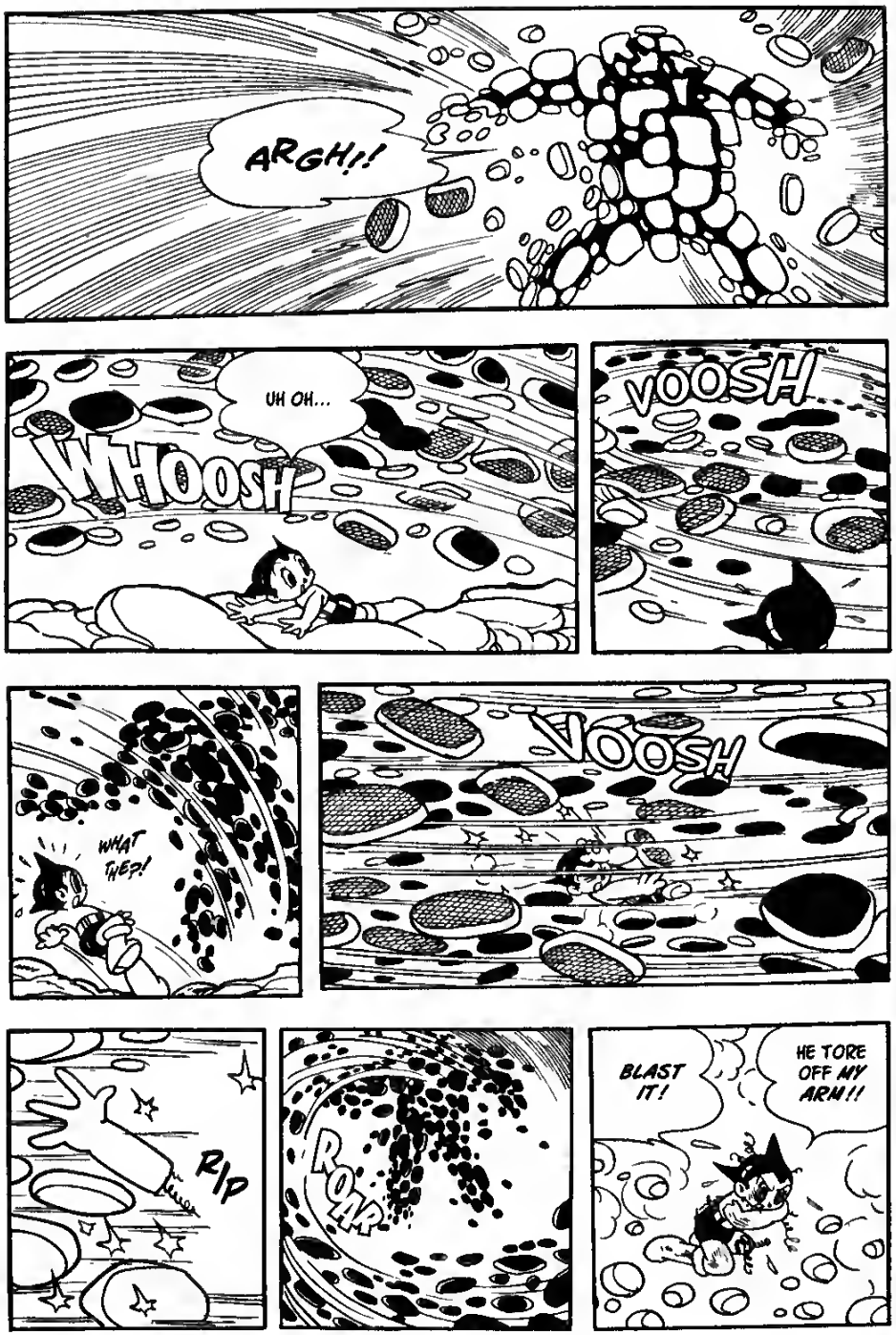

GO AFTER HIM TOGETHER, NOT INDIVIDUALLY, MEN!

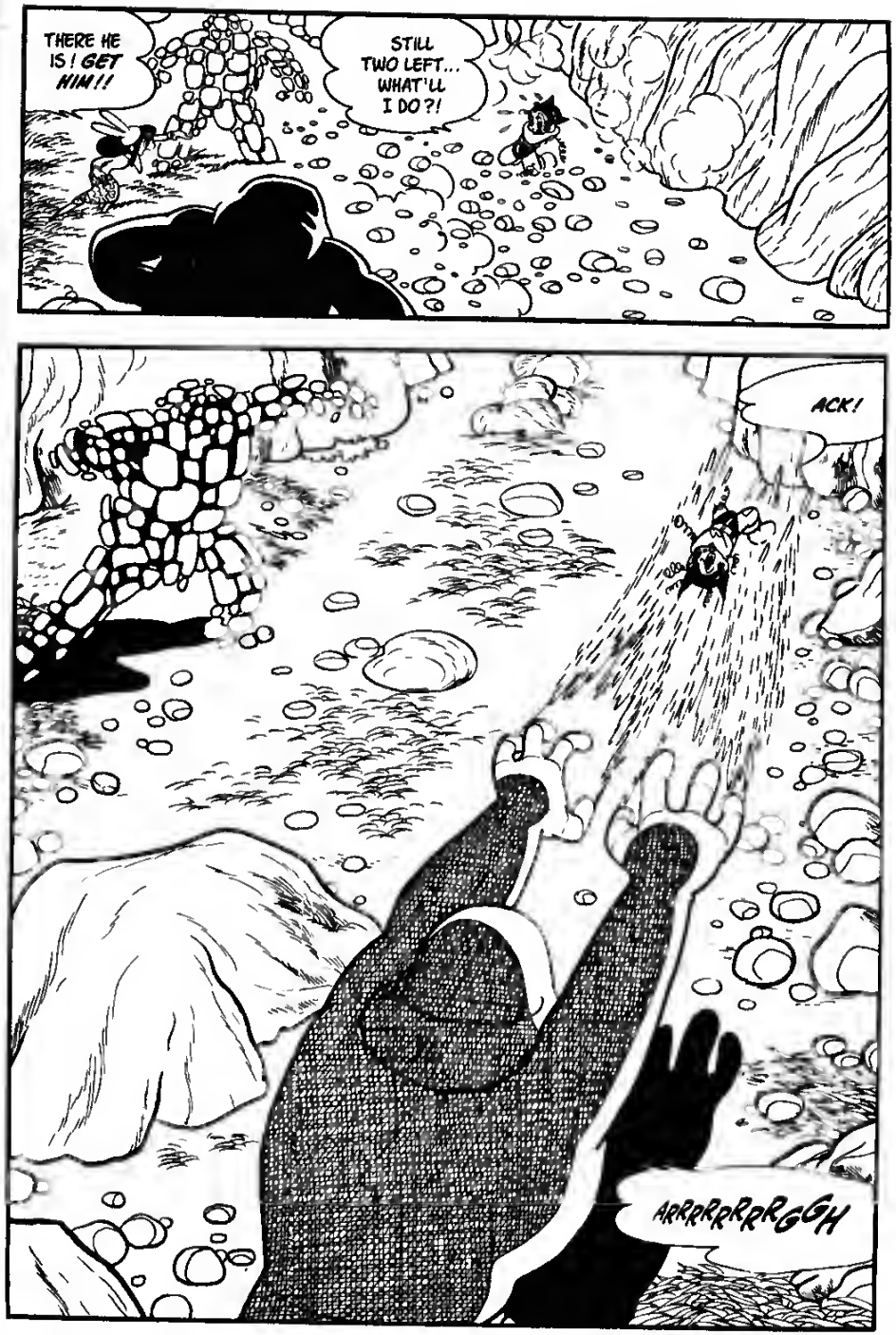
VOOOSH

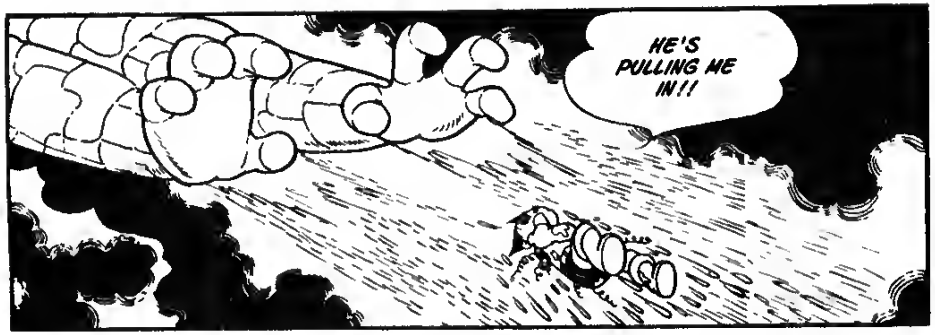
UH OH...

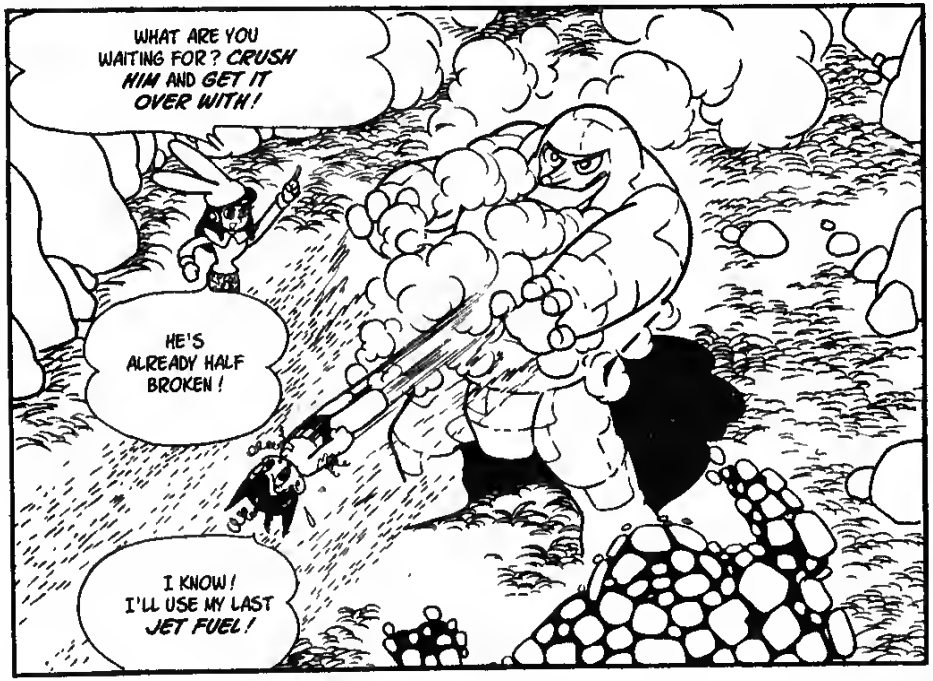

GRAK

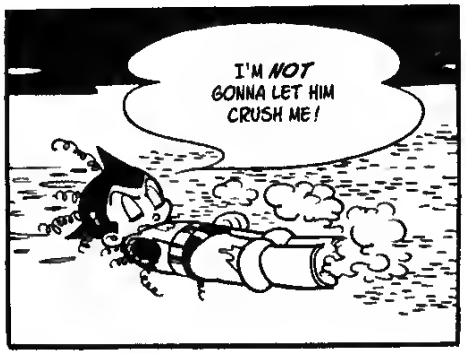
TWO MORE TO GO...

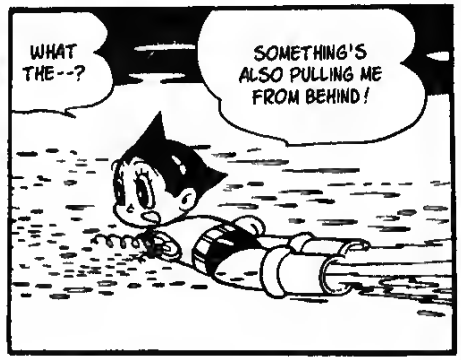

ARGH!!
UH OH...
WHOOSH
VOOSH
WHAT THE?!
VOOSH
RIP
ROAR
BLAST IT!
HE TORE OFF MY ARM!!

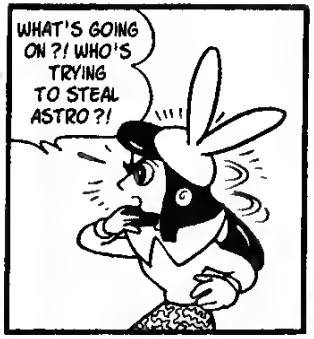

THERE HE IS! GET HIM!!
STILL TWO LEFT... WHAT'LL I DO?!
ACK!
ARRRRRRRRGGH

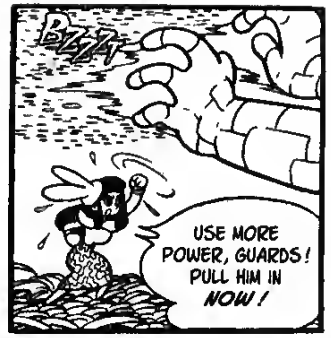

HE'S PULLING ME IN!!

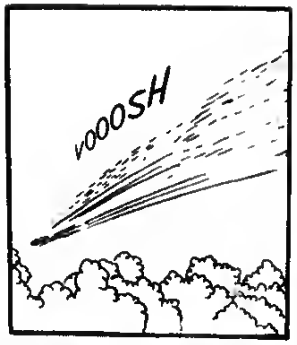

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CRUSH HIM AND GET IT OVER WITH!
HE'S ALREADY HALF BROKEN!
I KNOW! I'LL USE MY LAST JET FUEL!

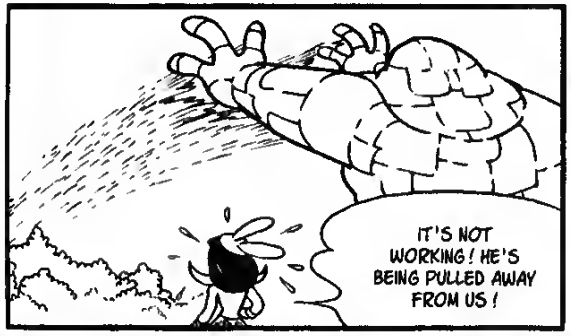

I'M NOT GONNA LET HIM CRUSH ME!

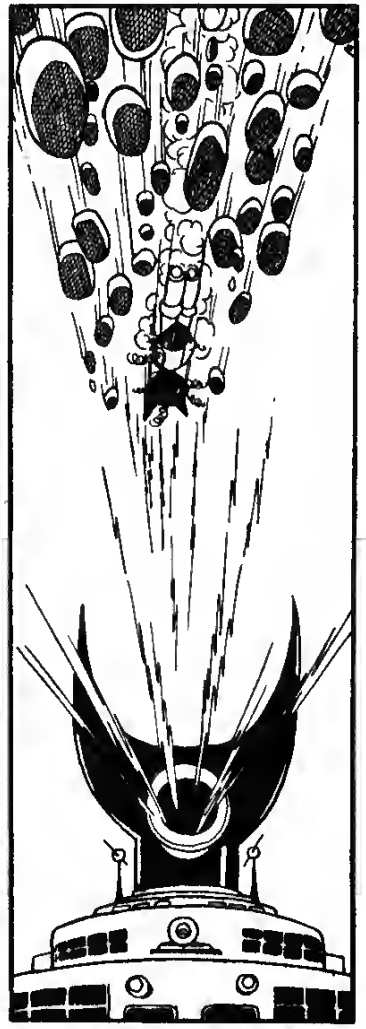

WHAT THE--?
SOMETHING'S ALSO PULLING ME FROM BEHIND!

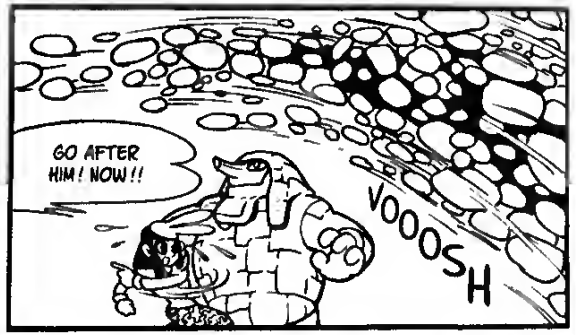

WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHO'S TRYING TO STEAL ASTRO?!

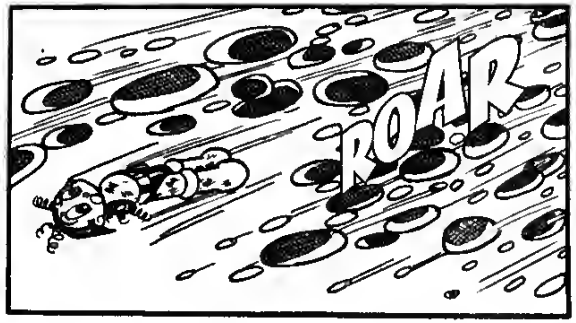

BZZT
USE MORE POWER, GUARDS! PULL HIM IN NOW!

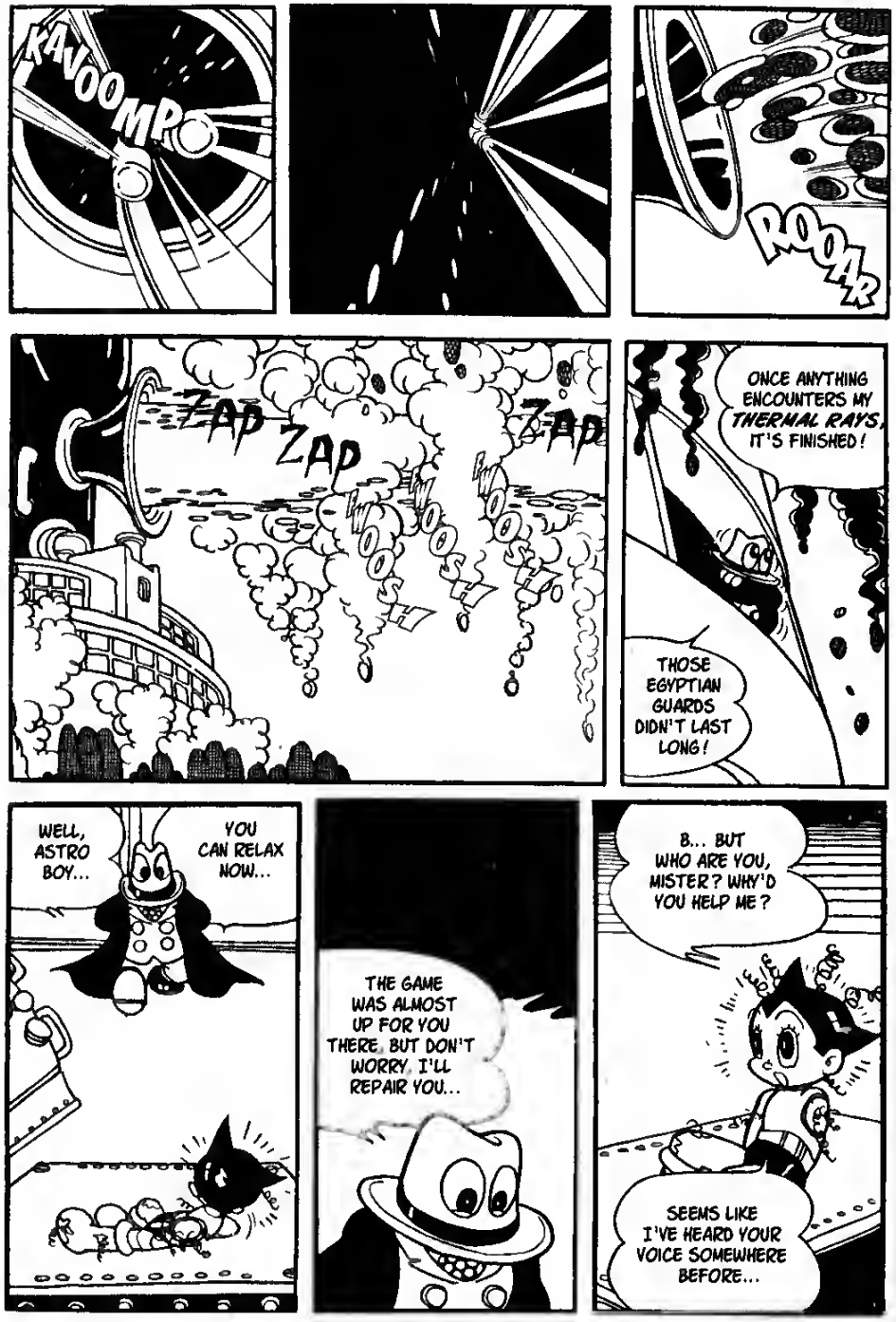

VOOOSH


IT'S NOT WORKING! HE'S BEING PULLED AWAY FROM US!

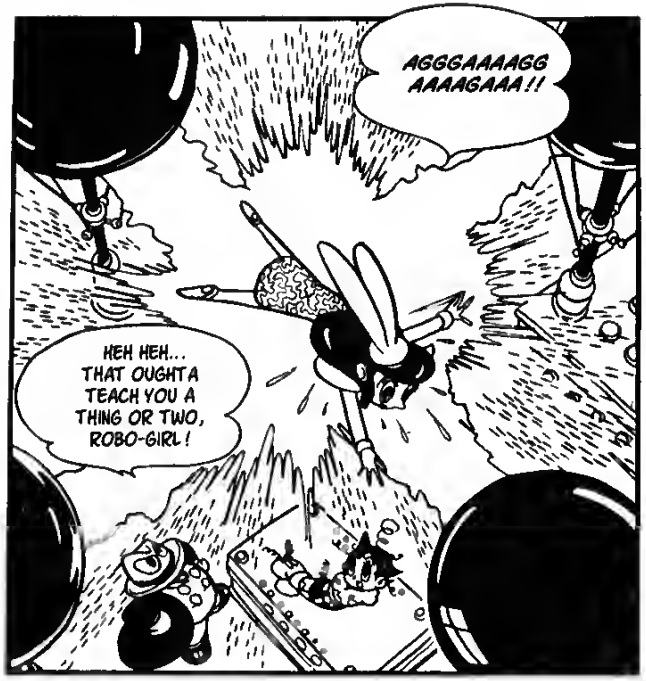



GO AFTER HIM! NOW!!
VOOOSH


ROAR

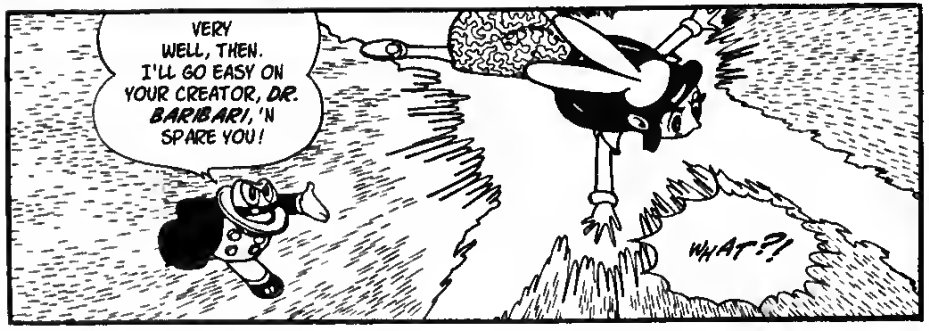

KAVOOM
ROOAR
ZAP ZAP ZAP
WOOSH WOOSH
ONCE ANYTHING ENCOUNTERS MY THERMAL RAYS, IT'S FINISHED!
THOSE EGYPTIAN GUARDS DIDN'T LAST LONG!
WELL, ASTRO BOY...
YOU CAN RELAX NOW...
THE GAME WAS ALMOST UP FOR YOU THERE. BUT DON'T WORRY. I'LL REPAIR YOU...
B... BUT WHO ARE YOU, MISTER? WHY'D YOU HELP ME?
SEEMS LIKE I'VE HEARD YOUR VOICE SOMEWHERE BEFORE...

N... NAW, NOT A CHANCE!
JUST REMEMBER, I'M YOUR FRIEND...
BUT HOW COME YOU KNOW HOW TO REPAIR ME, MISTER?
WELL, ER, I DON'T REALLY... I JUST THINK I CAN...
I'D BE HONORED TO TRY TO REPAIR YOU... IN THE FIELD OF ROBOTICS, YOU'RE A WORK OF ART, AFTER ALL.
KERSMASH
OUT OF THE WAY! I'M HERE TO COLLECT ASTRO!
EHEH HAH HAH!
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO GET OUT OF THE WAY?
OUT OF THE WAY, OR ELSE!
YOU FOOL!!

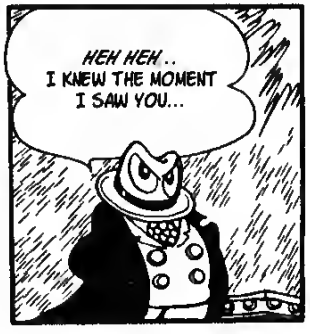

AGGGAAAAGG AAAAGAAA!!
HEH HEH... THAT OUGHTA TEACH YOU A THING OR TWO, ROBO-GIRL!

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO ATTACK ME!

GOSH, MISTER, CAN'T YOU FORGIVE HER? SHE'S SUFFERING...


VERY WELL, THEN. I'LL GO EASY ON YOUR CREATOR, DR. BARIBARI, 'N SPARE YOU!
WHAT?!

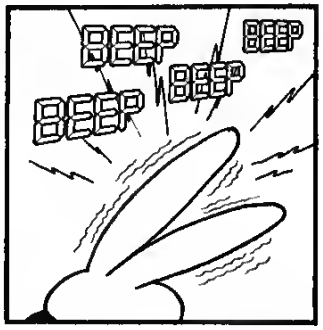
HOW'D YOU KNOW WHO CREATED ME?

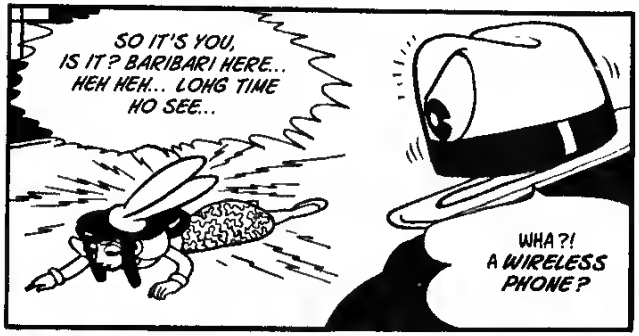

HEH HEH.. I KNEW THE MOMENT I SAW YOU...

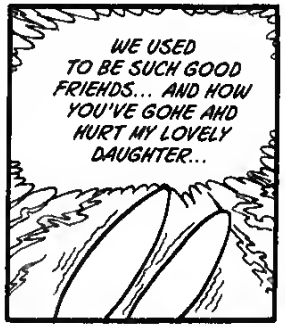
TELL HIM THIS--I WON'T LET HIM LAY A FINGER ON ASTRO, AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE!

THUD

NOW GO HOME!


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP


SO IT'S YOU, IS IT? BARIBARI HERE... HEH HEH... LONG TIME NO SEE...
WHA?! A WIRELESS PHONE?


WE USED TO BE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS... AND HOW YOU'VE GONE AND HURT MY LOVELY DAUGHTER...

BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT... I WANT THE PENDANT IN ASTRO'S CHEST!

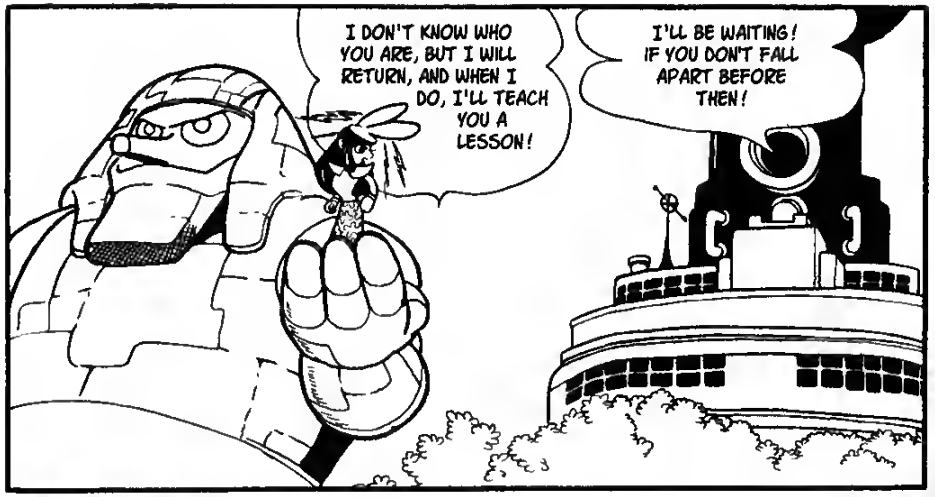
NEVER!!

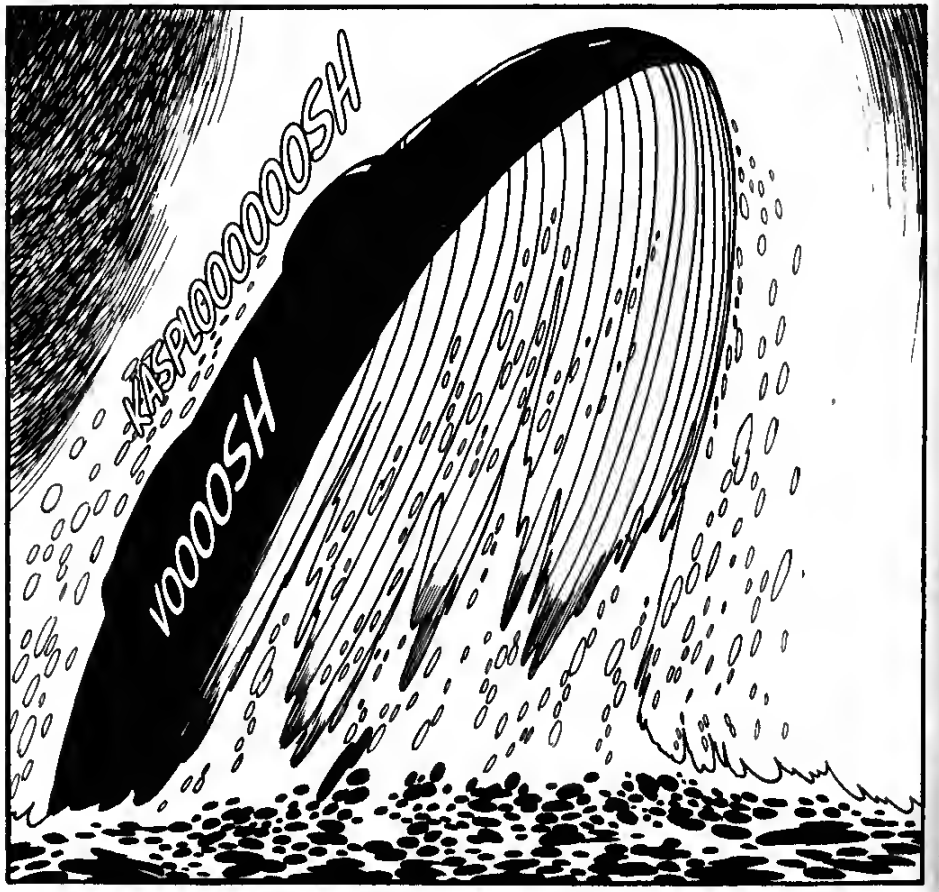
I WISH YOU COULD SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ASTRO!

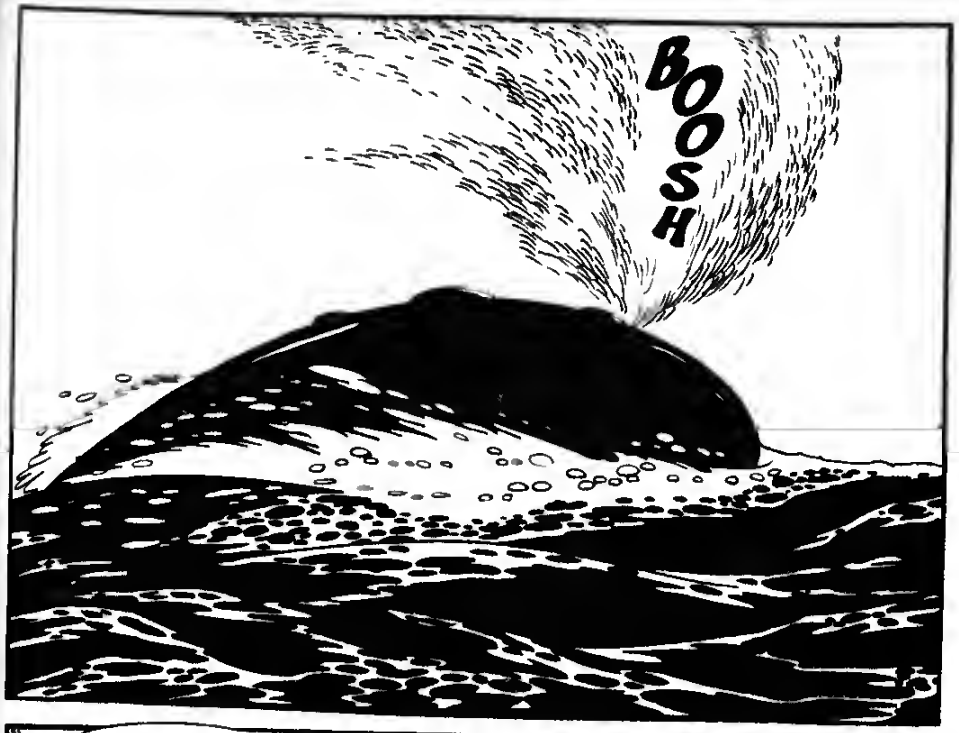
YOU AND YOUR PRECIOUS ROBO-GIRL! HA! THINK WHAT MY ASTRO MEANS TO ME!

"MY ASTRO"?!

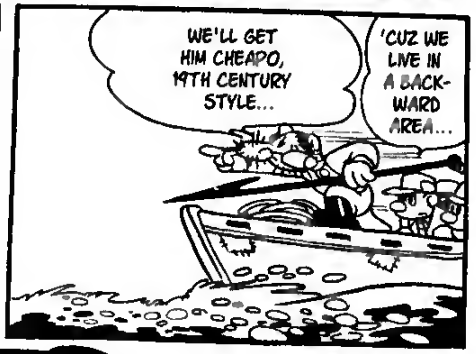
MISTER... ARE YOU--
GET OUT OF HERE AND DON'T COME BACK!!


I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT I WILL RETURN, AND WHEN I DO, I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON!
I'LL BE WAITING! IF YOU DON'T FALL APART BEFORE THEN!


KASPLOOOOOOSH
VOOOOSH

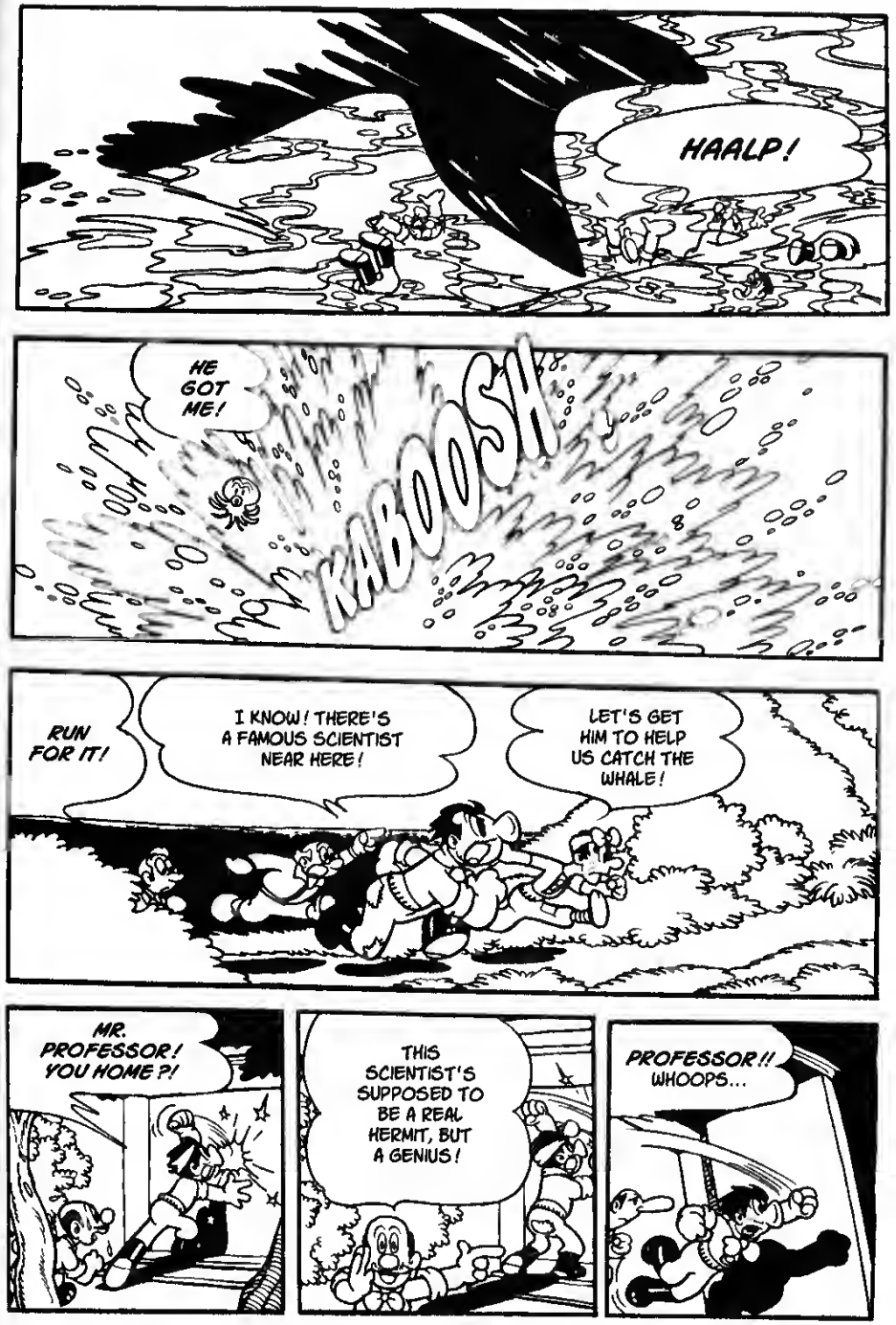

BOOSH

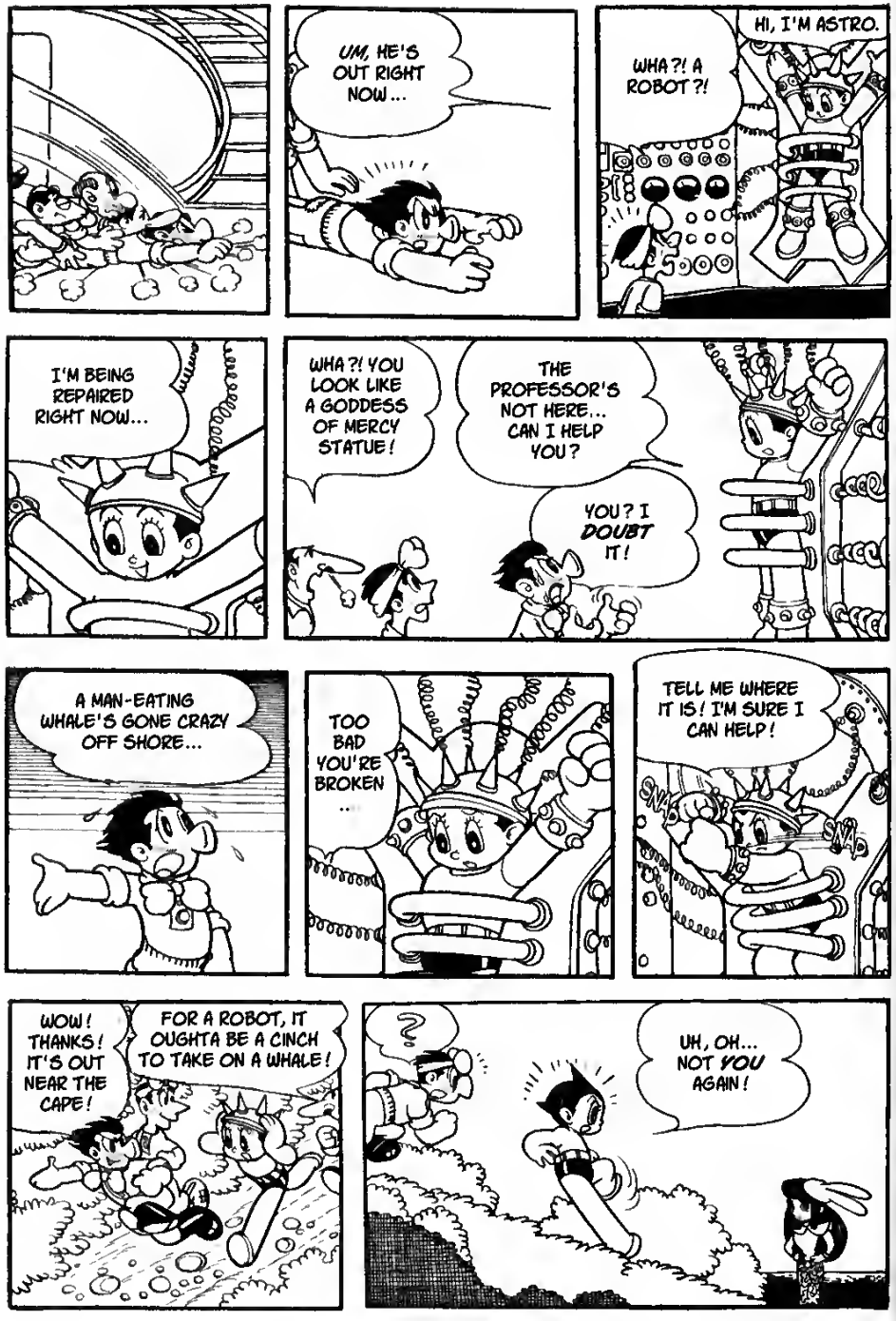
HEY! IT'S A WHALE!! BIGGER THAN ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN!


WE'LL GET HIM CHEAPO, 19TH CENTURY STYLE...
'CUZ WE LIVE IN A BACK-WARD AREA...

THIS WHALE'S GOT NERVE! HE'S NOT EVEN TRYING TO ESCAPE!
HARPOOHS AWAY!

KLANK
WHA?! THE HARPOON BOUNCED OFF HIM!
WHALES THESE DAYS MUST HAVE AWFULLY THICK SKINS!
EVERYBODY THROW THEIR HARPOONS AT ONCE!
CLANK
BONK
CLANK
AIM FOR HIS EYES! THEY'RE HIS WEAK POINT!
CLATTER
UH, OH... NOW HE'S REALLY MAD!
WATCH OUT! I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO THIS!
KER SPLASH

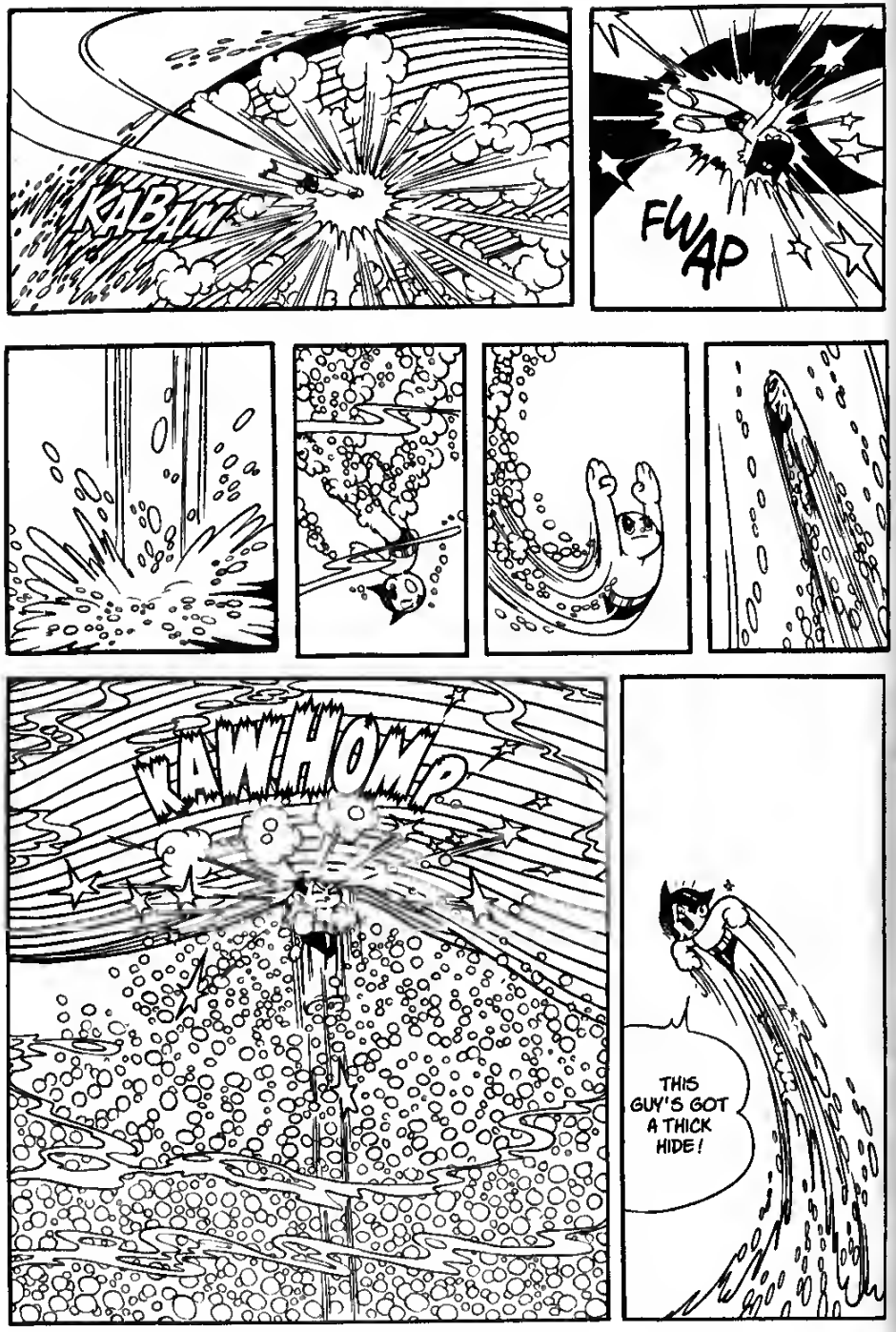

HAALP!
HE GOT ME!
KABOOSH
RUN FOR IT!
I KNOW! THERE'S A FAMOUS SCIENTIST NEAR HERE!
LET'S GET HIM TO HELP US CATCH THE WHALE!
MR. PROFESSOR! YOU HOME?!
THIS SCIENTIST'S SUPPOSED TO BE A REAL HERMIT, BUT A GENIUS!
PROFESSOR!! WHOOPS...

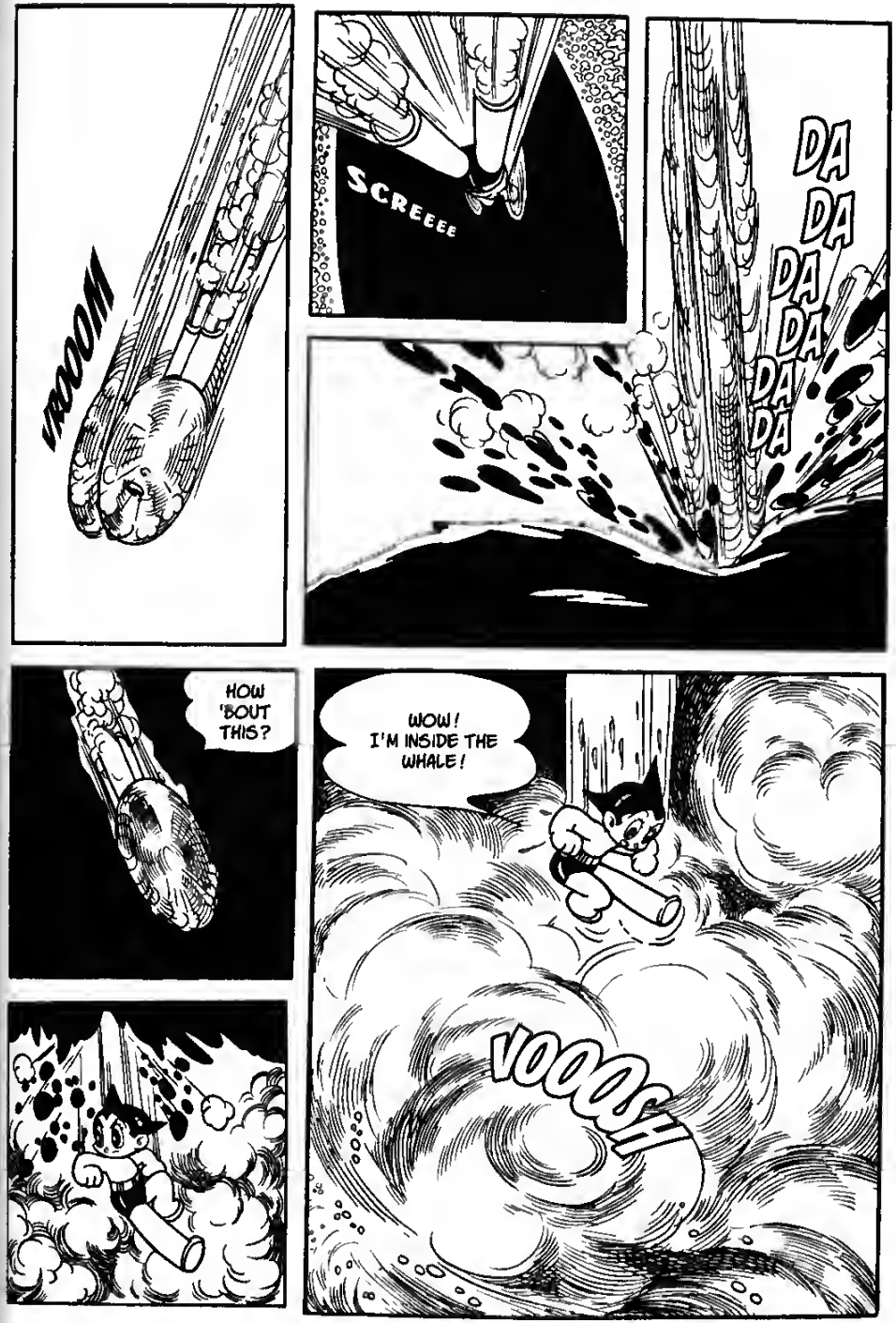

UM, HE'S OUT RIGHT NOW...
HI, I'M ASTRO.
WHA?! A ROBOT?!
I'M BEING REPAIRED RIGHT NOW...
WHA?! YOU LOOK LIKE A GODDESS OF MERCY STATUE!
THE PROFESSOR'S NOT HERE... CAN I HELP YOU?
YOU? I DOUBT IT!
A MAN-EATING WHALE'S GONE CRAZY OFF SHORE...
TOO BAD YOU'RE BROKEN ..
TELL ME WHERE IT IS! I'M SURE I CAN HELP!
WOW! THANKS! IT'S OUT NEAR THE CAPE!
FOR A ROBOT, IT OUGHTA BE A CINCH TO TAKE ON A WHALE!
?
UH, OH... NOT YOU AGAIN!

ASTRO... STAY AWAY FROM THE WHALE...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S MORE TERRIFYING THAN YOU KNOW... YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR IT!
THANKS FOR THE WARNING, BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU'RE MY FRIEND OR MY ENEMY!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE MYSELF...
WHY THE HECK SHOULD I PAY ANY ATTENTION TO YOU, THEN?!
PLEASE, ASTRO... DON'T GO... IT'S TOO DANGEROUS...
LET GO OF ME!
OUT OF MY WAY!
ACK!
ASTRO! DON'T GO!!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

CLEO-PATRA... IT'S ME...
DR. BARI-BARI!
I CAN TELL YOU'RE BEING TOO SOFT-HEARTED AGAIN...
I CAN'T HELP IT, AND I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY MORE!
LISTEN TO ME! ASTRO IS YOUR ENEMY! DON'T EVER TRY TO HELP HIM LIKE THAT AGAIN!
ZAP
BUZZ
ZAP
BUZZ
ZAP
STILL TRYING TO DEFY ME, EH?!! HERE'S YOUR PUNISHMENT, THEN!
NO! PLEASE!
♪GA GA♪ ♪GARI GARI♪ ♪BEEP BEEP♪
YOU MUST OBEY ME! UNDERSTAND?!
YES, SIR...

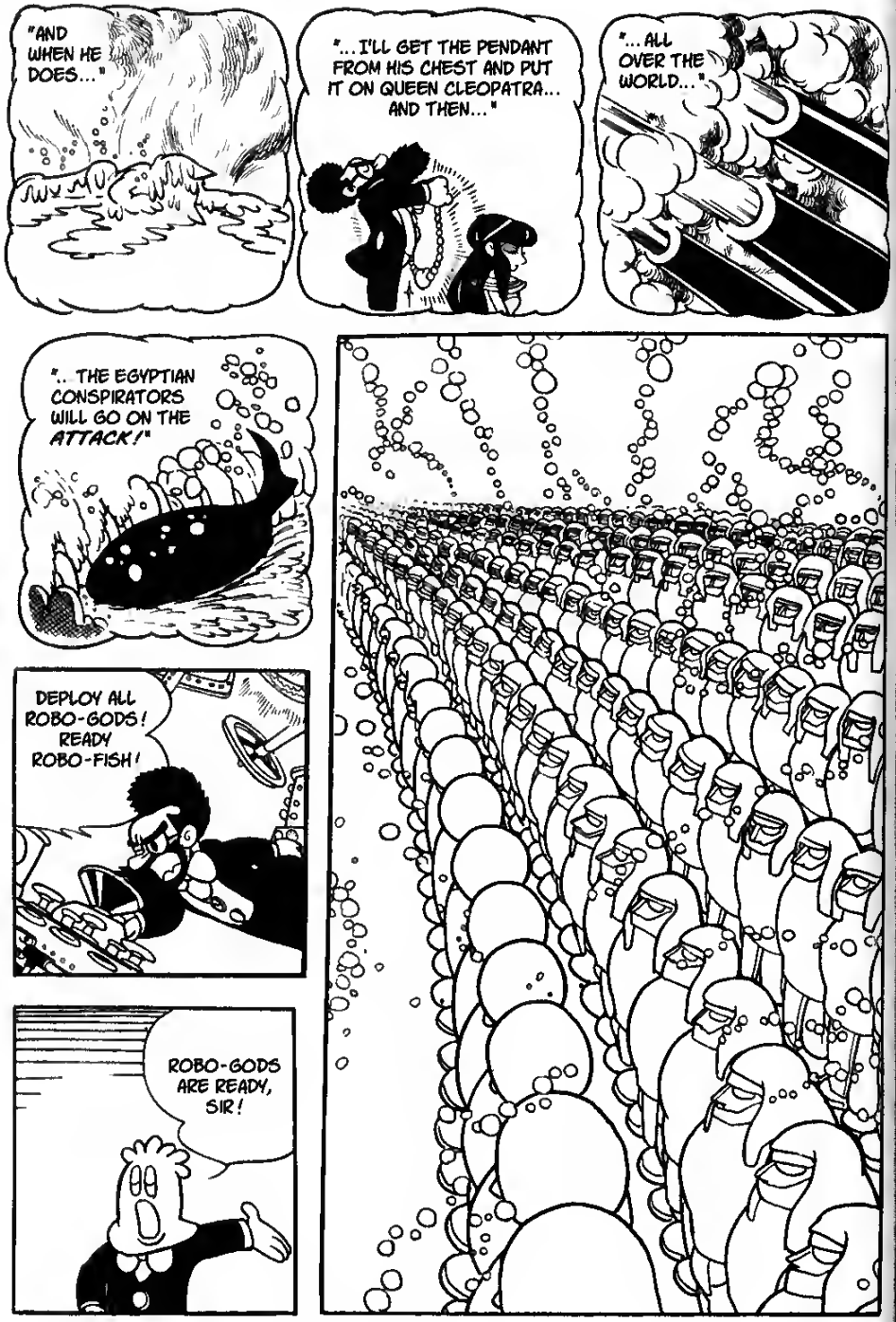
GOSH... LOOK AT ALL THE POOR FISHERMEN!
KABONK
OKAY, MR. WHALE! I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON!
THAT EXPLAINS SOMETHING! HE'S MADE OUT OF STEEL!
KASPLOOSH
THIS TIME HE DODGED ME!

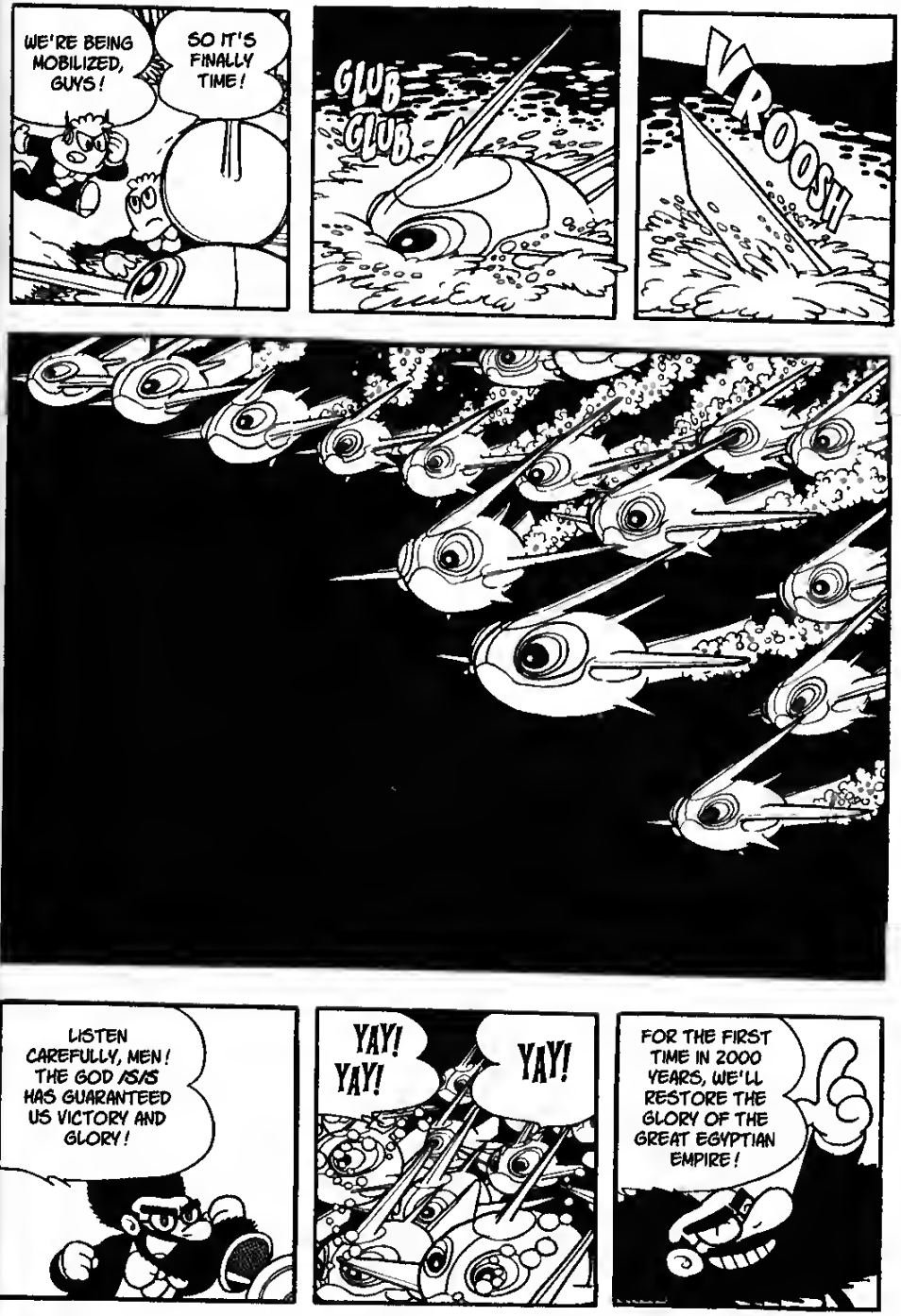

KABAM!
FWAP
KAWHOMP
THIS GUY'S GOT A THICK HIDE!


VROOOM
SCREEEE
DA DA DA DA DA DA
HOW 'BOUT THIS?
WOW! I'M INSIDE THE WHALE!
VOOOSH

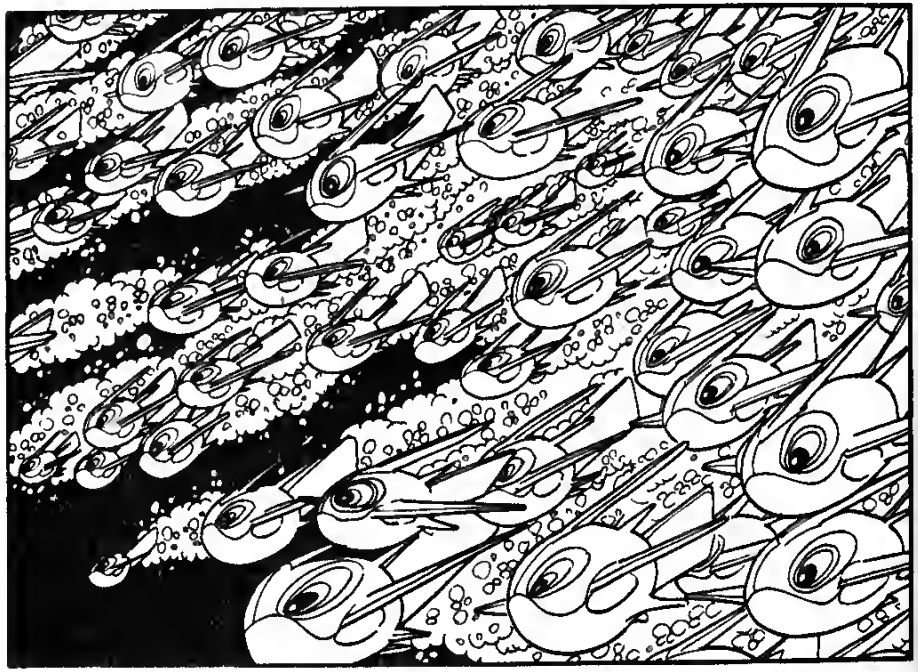
IT'S A SUPER HOT GAS, 3000 °C!!
ROAR
HA HA HA! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, ASTRO!
THIS'LL TEACH YOU TO LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP! KNOW WHAT THIS WHALE REALLY IS? IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE SHIP! HA HA!
AN EARTHQUAKE SHIP?!
THAT'S RIGHT. BY BURROWING INTO THE EARTH AND RELEASING A SUPER-HOT GAS...
...IT CAUSES EARTH-QUAKES AND VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS!
IT'S THE ULTIMATE SUPER WEAPON I'VE CREATED FOR THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRATORS! HA HA HA HA!

BUT WHY'D YOU BRING THIS THING TO JAPAN?
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT JAPAN?
I'VE DEPLOYED WHALES LIKE THIS IN SEAS ALL OVER THE EARTH, AND ON MY COMMAND THEY'LL WREAK GLOBAL HAVOC!
I'M GETTING OUTTA HERE!!
NOT SO FAST, ASTRO BOY! EVEN YOU CAN'T BREAK OUT OF HERE!
IF YOU WANT TO BE FREE, HAND OVER CLEOPATRA'S PENDANT!
REFUSE, AND YOU'LL STAY IN THE WHALE'S STOMACH FOREVER!
...WHERE YOU'LL EVENTUALLY MELT!! HAH HAH HA!
SO HOW ABOUT IT?! BE A GOOD ROBOT AND HAND OVER THE PENDANT!
NEVER!
THEN IT'S MELTING TIME!
CHAK
OKAY, EVERYBODY... LISTEN CAREFULLY...
ASTRO'S GOING TO START TO MELT...

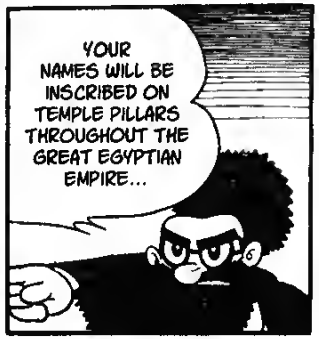

"AND WHEN HE DOES..."
"... I'LL GET THE PENDANT FROM HIS CHEST AND PUT IT ON QUEEN CLEOPATRA... AND THEN..."
"... ALL OVER THE WORLD..."
".. THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRATORS WILL GO ON THE ATTACK!"
DEPLOY ALL ROBO-GODS! READY ROBO-FISH!
ROBO-GODS ARE READY, SIR!


WE'RE BEING MOBILIZED, GUYS!
SO IT'S FINALLY TIME!
GLUB GLUB
VROOSH
LISTEN CAREFULLY, MEN! THE GOD /S/S HAS GUARANTEED US VICTORY AND GLORY!
YAY! YAY!
YAY!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2000 YEARS, WE'LL RESTORE THE GLORY OF THE GREAT EGYPTIAN EMPIRE!

GLUB
GLUB
GLUG
GLUG



BRAVE CITIZENS AND MEMBERS OF THE CONSPIRACY! THE TIME FOR ACTION AND SACRIFICE IS APPROACHING...


YOUR NAMES WILL BE INSCRIBED ON TEMPLE PILLARS THROUGHOUT THE GREAT EGYPTIAN EMPIRE...

IT'S AN HONOR, SIR!!

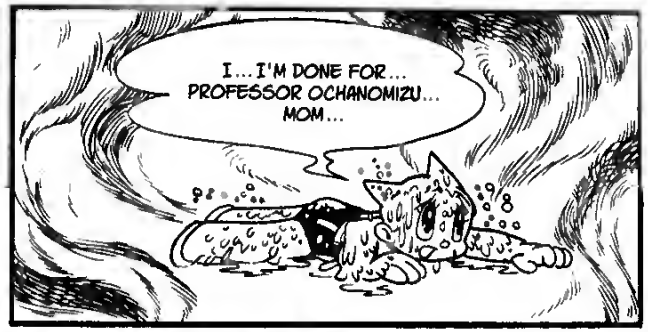
TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR COMING VICTORY! LET'S PIG OUT!
MUNCH MUNCH
CHOMP CHOMP
CRUNCH
GOBBLE

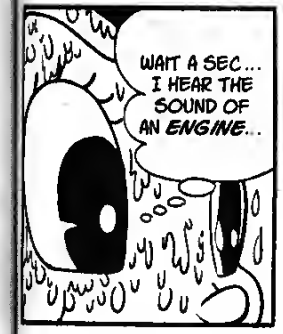
LONG LIVE THE GREAT EGYPTIAN EMPIRE! LONG LIVE QUEEN CLEOPATRA! LONG LIVE ELIZABETH TAYLOR!
WHAT'LL WE DO IF WE BECOME REAL HEROES?
I'D SETTLE FOR THE AMERICAN CONTINENT AS A BONUS!
FIRST OF ALL, WE ASK FOR A RAISE!

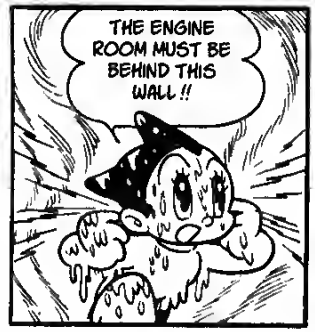
HEH HEH HEH... MY LIFELONG DREAM IS ABOUT TO COME TRUE!

BUT WHY HASN'T ASTRO MELTED YET?

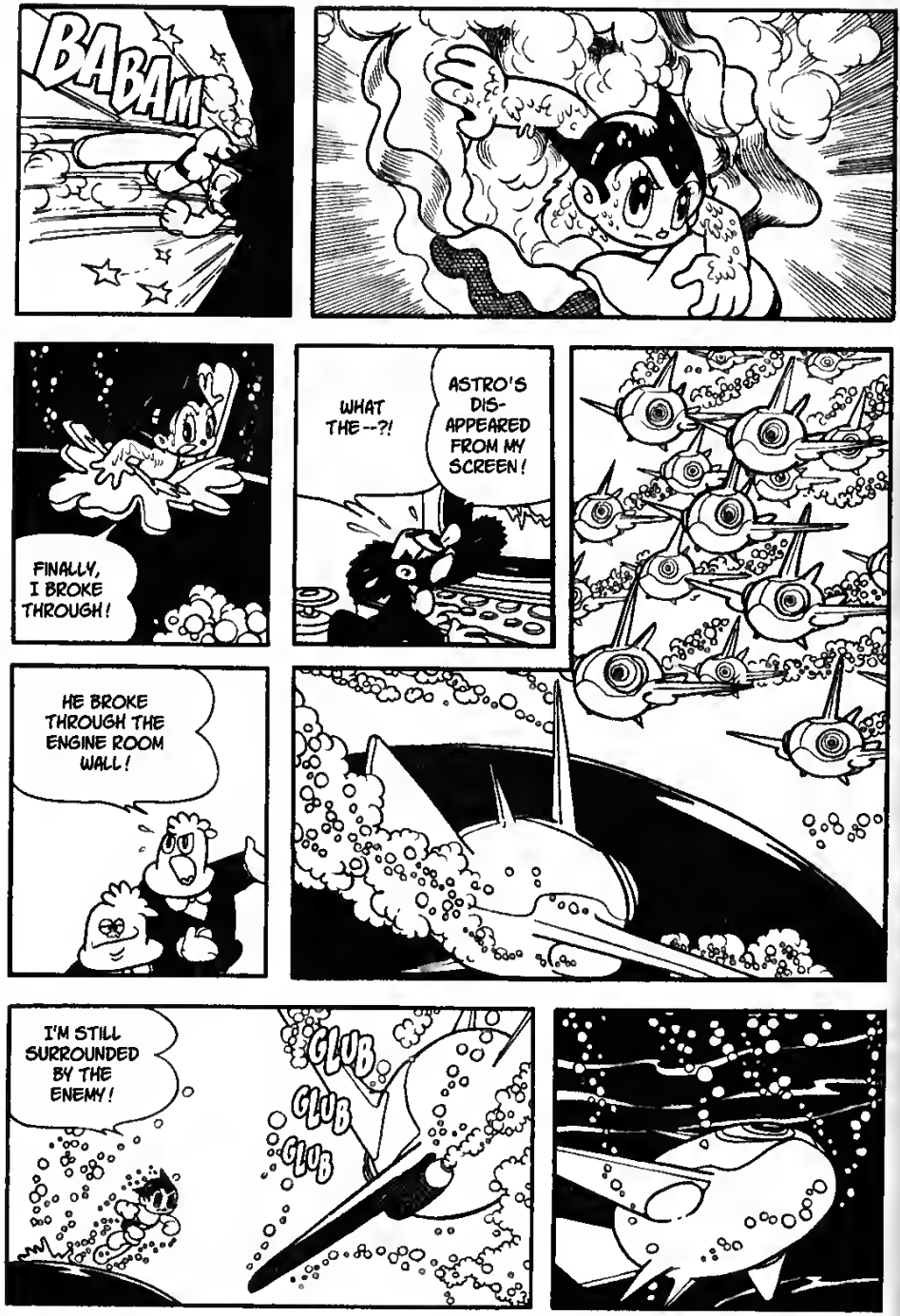
RATS! HE MUST HAVE A SPECIAL HEAT-RESISTANT SKIN!

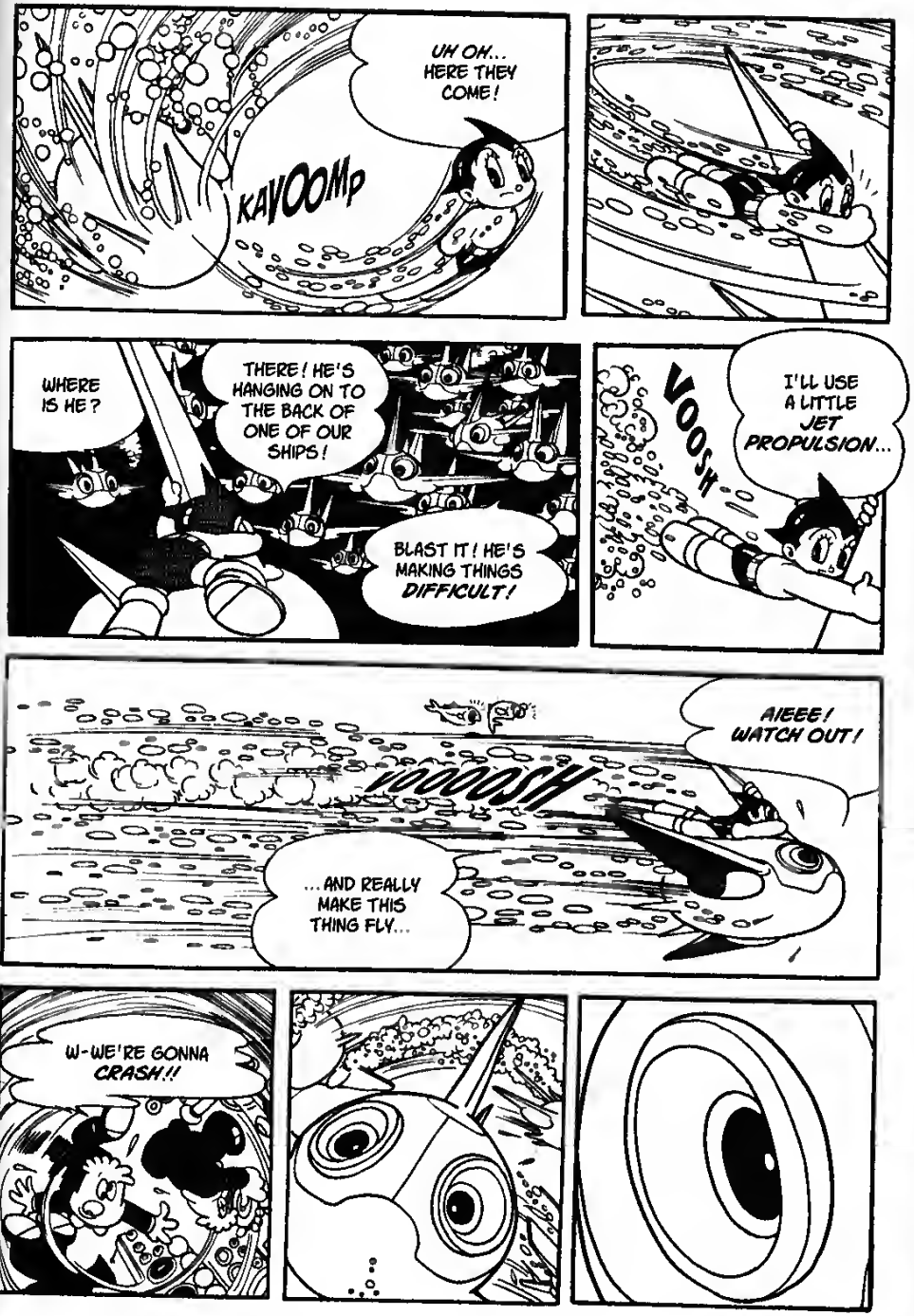

I...I'M DONE FOR... PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU... MOM...

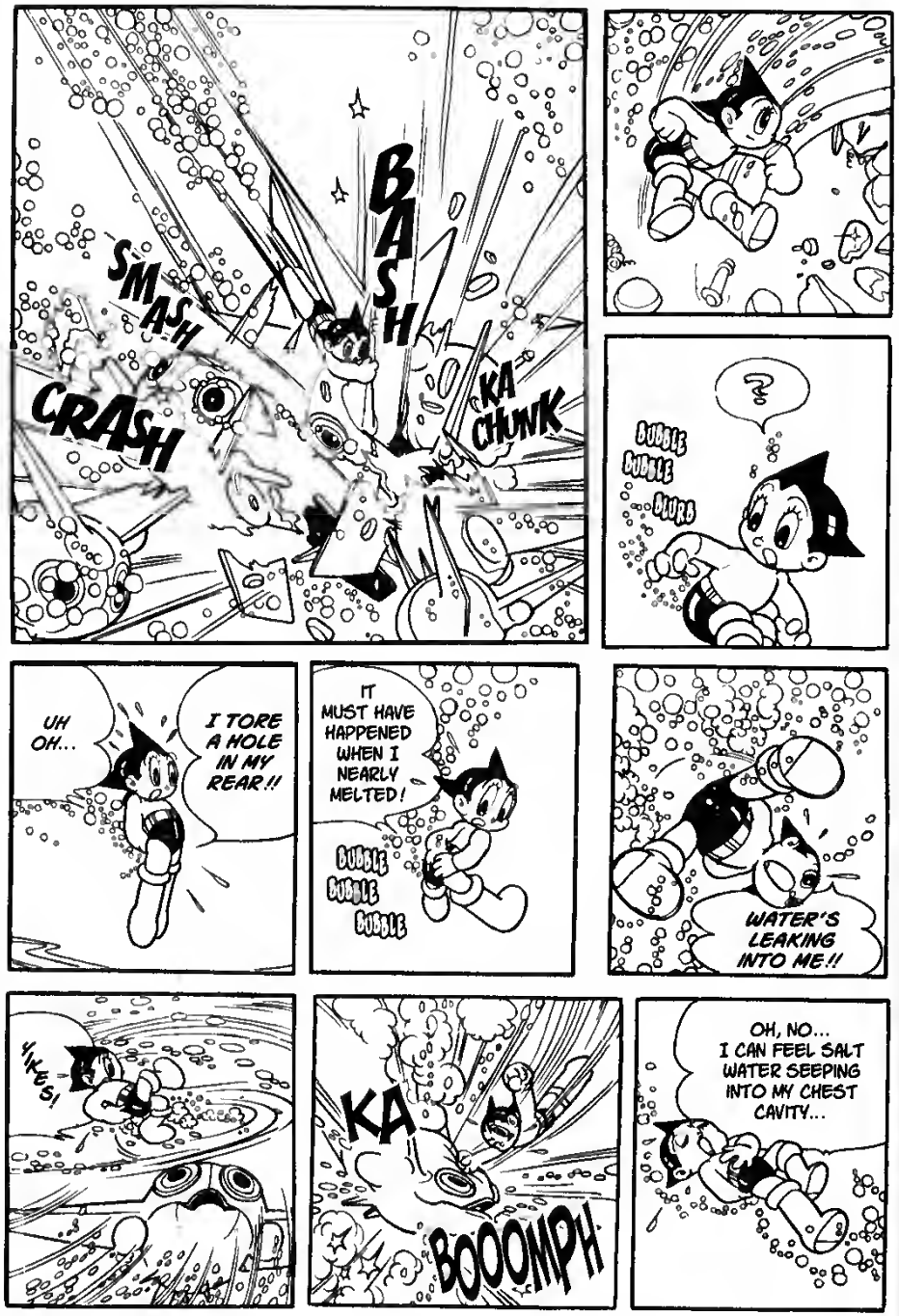

WAIT A SEC... I HEAR THE SOUND OF AN ENGINE...

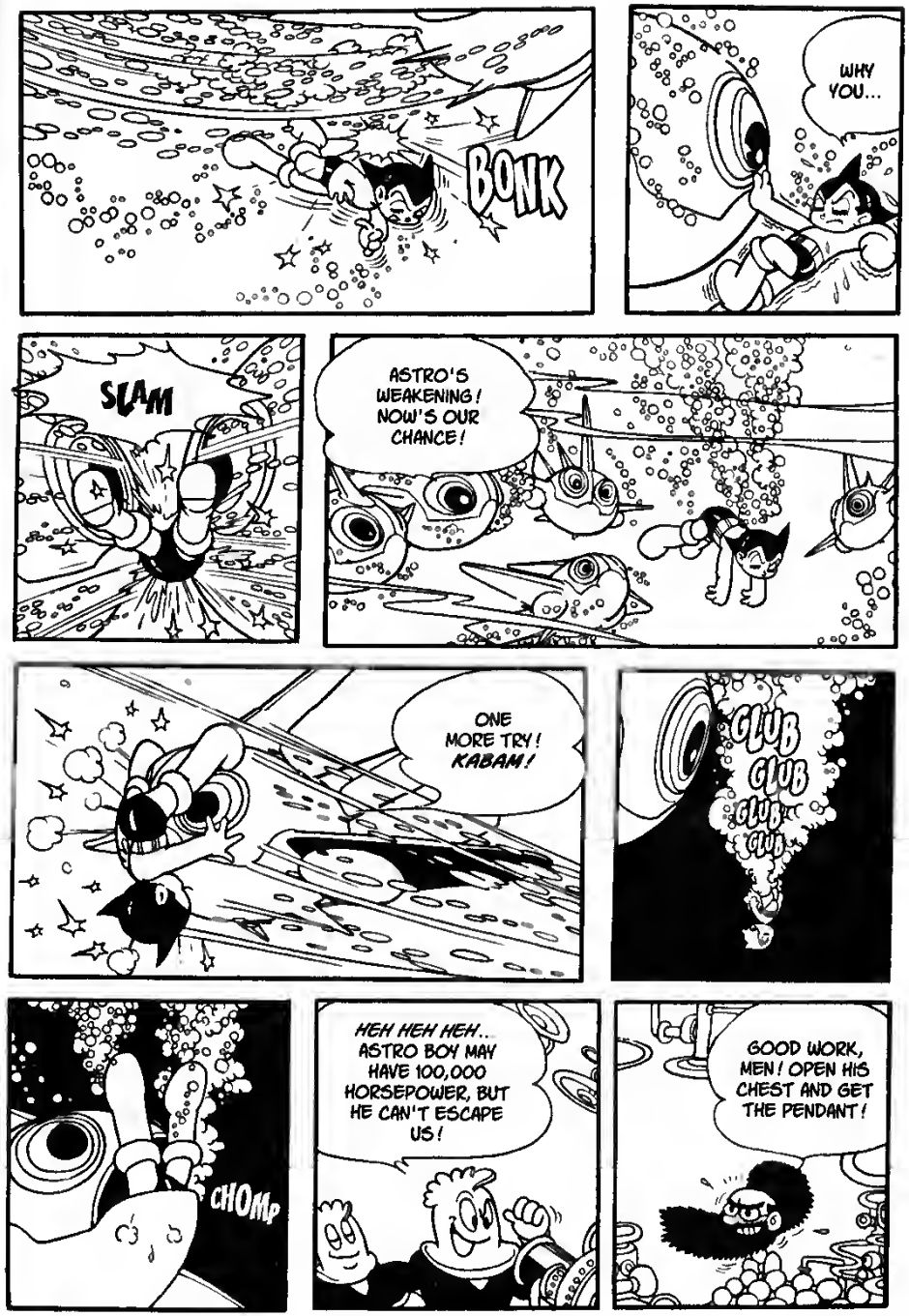

THE ENGINE ROOM MUST BE BEHIND THIS WALL!!

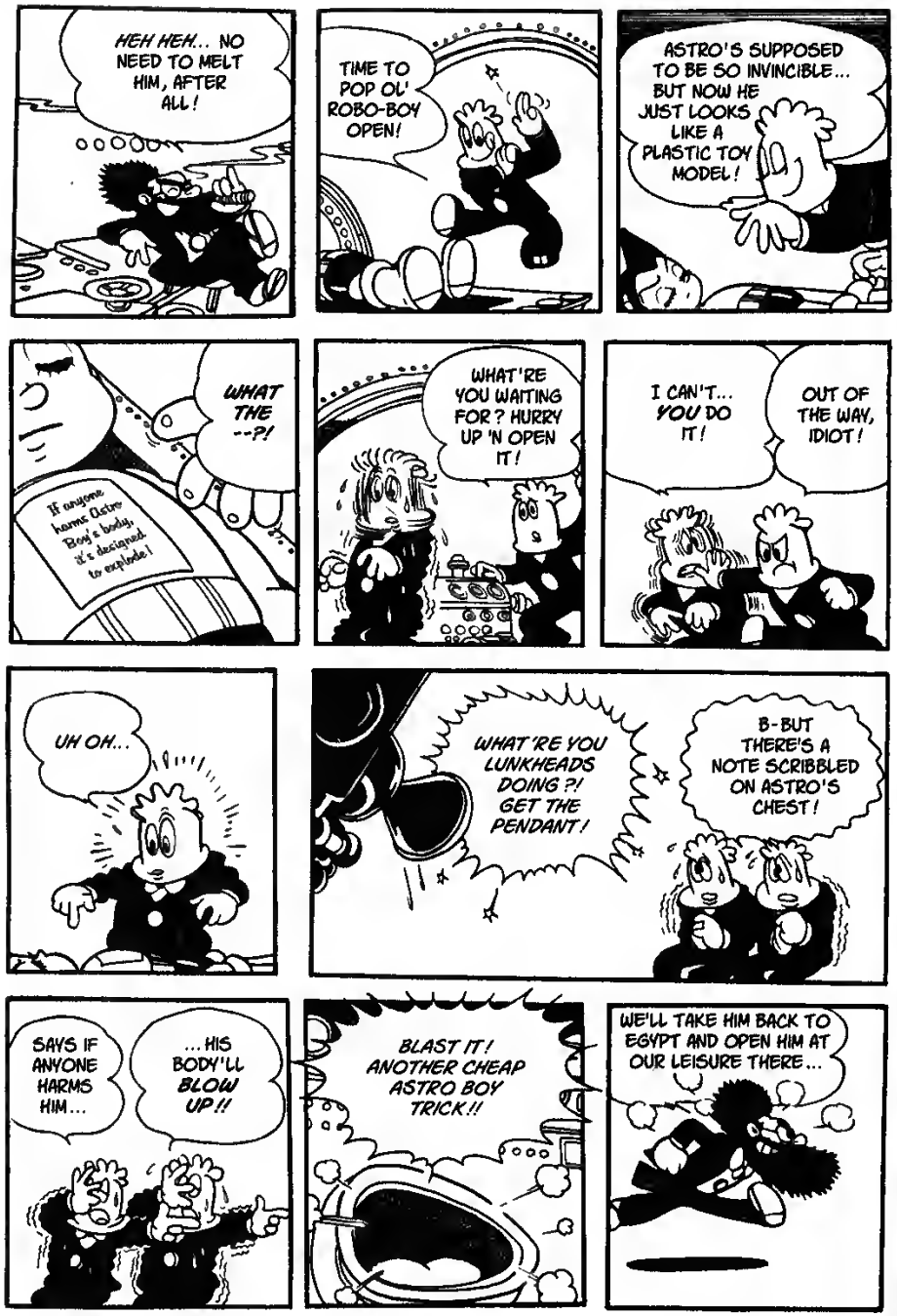
THE WALL'S GOTTA BE THINNER THERE!!


BABAM
FINALLY, I BROKE THROUGH!
WHAT THE--?!
ASTRO'S DIS-APPEARED FROM MY SCREEN!
HE BROKE THROUGH THE ENGINE ROOM WALL!
I'M STILL SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY!
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB


UH OH... HERE THEY COME!
KAVOOMP
WHERE IS HE?
THERE! HE'S HANGING ON TO THE BACK OF ONE OF OUR SHIPS!
BLAST IT! HE'S MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT!
VOOSH
I'LL USE A LITTLE JET PROPULSION...
AIEEE! WATCH OUT!
WOOOOSH
...AND REALLY MAKE THIS THING FLY...
W-WE'RE GONNA CRASH!!

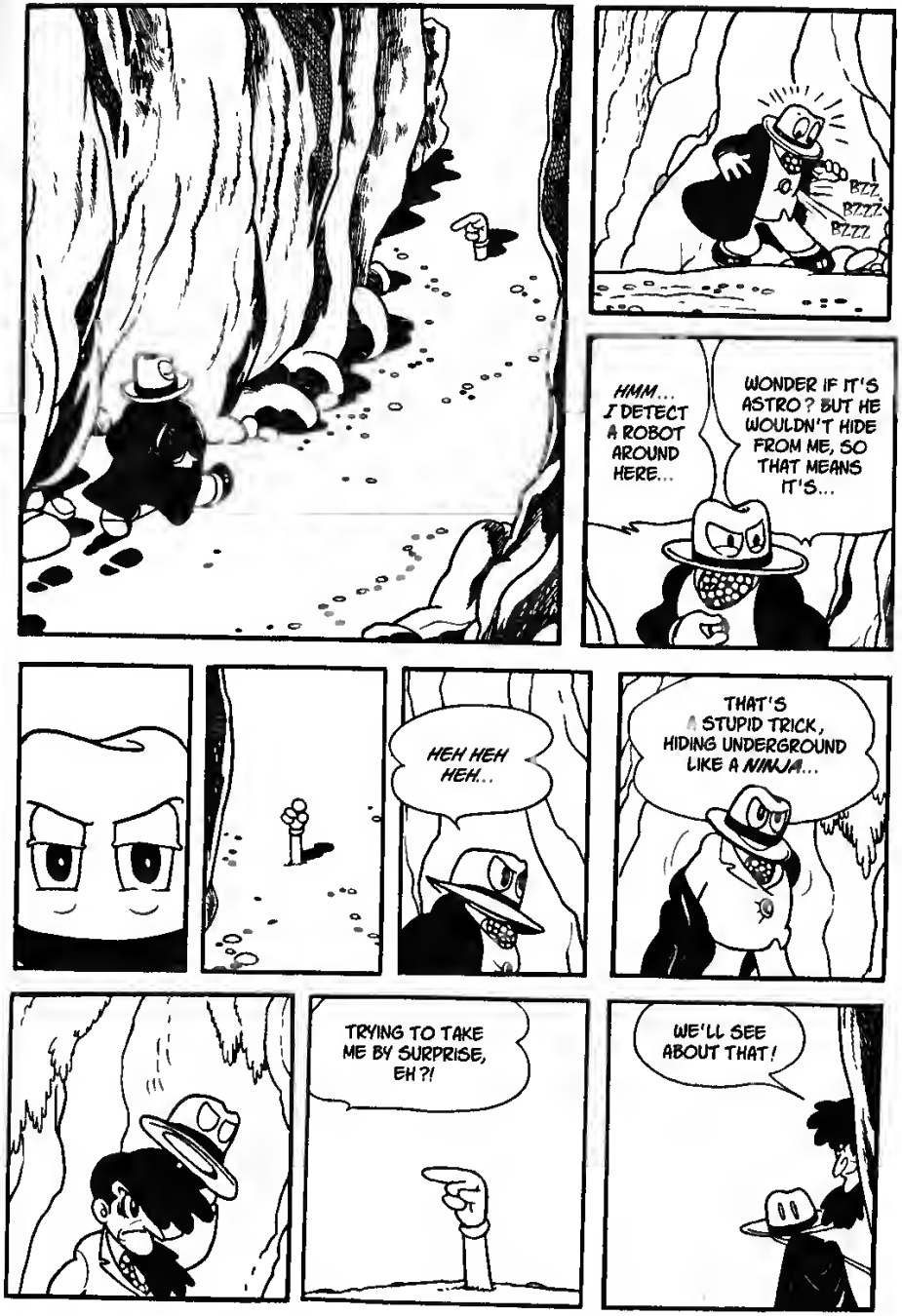

BASH
SMASH
CRASH
KA CHUNK
BUBBLE BUBBLE BLURB
?
UH OH...
I TORE A HOLE IN MY REAR!!
IT MUST HAVE HAPPENED WHEN I NEARLY MELTED!
BUBBLE BUBBLE BUBBLE
WATER'S LEAKING INTO ME!!
YIKES!
KA
BOOOMPH
OH, NO... I CAN FEEL SALT WATER SEEPING INTO MY CHEST CAVITY...


BONK
WHY YOU...
SLAM
ASTRO'S WEAKENING! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
ONE MORE TRY! KABAM!
GLUB GLUB GLUB GLUB
CHOMP
HEH HEH HEH.. ASTRO BOY MAY HAVE 100,000 HORSEPOWER, BUT HE CAN'T ESCAPE US!
GOOD WORK, MEN! OPEN HIS CHEST AND GET THE PENDANT!


HEH HEH... NO NEED TO MELT HIM, AFTER ALL!
TIME TO POP OL' ROBO-BOY OPEN!
ASTRO'S SUPPOSED TO BE SO INVINCIBLE... BUT NOW HE JUST LOOKS LIKE A PLASTIC TOY MODEL!
WHAT THE --P!
If anyone harms Astro Boy's body, it's designed to explode!
WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? HURRY UP 'N OPEN IT!
I CAN'T... YOU DO IT!
OUT OF THE WAY, IDIOT!
UH OH...
WHAT'RE YOU LUNKHEADS DOING?! GET THE PENDANT!
B-BUT THERE'S A NOTE SCRIBBLED ON ASTRO'S CHEST!
SAYS IF ANYONE HARMS HIM...
...HIS BODY'LL BLOW UP!!
BLAST IT! ANOTHER CHEAP ASTRO BOY TRICK!!
WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO EGYPT AND OPEN HIM AT OUR LEISURE THERE...

BEFORE I DO THAT, THOUGH, THERE'S SOMEONE I'VE GOTTA TAKE CARE OF...
CLEOPATRA!
YESSIR, PROFESSOR, I'M HERE....
WE'RE GOING BACK TO EGYPT NOW...
I WANT YOU TO POLISH MY RIVAL OFF BEFORE YOU RETURN! UNDERSTAND?
BUT HE'S NOT HERE NOW...
THEN SET UP AN AMBUSH FOR HIM AND GET RID OF HIM WHEN HE COMES BACK...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO!
I USED TO BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE MAN. HE CREATED ASTRO BOY, AND I CREATED CLEOPATRA...
I KNEW EVENTUALLY WE'D HAVE TO HAVE A SHOWDOWN!
AND FINALLY, THE TIME HAS COME!
...HERE HE COMES!

NOW, CLEOPATRA, NOW!
KILL HIM! HE'S MY ENEMY, AND HE'S INTERFERING!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BZZ
BZZ

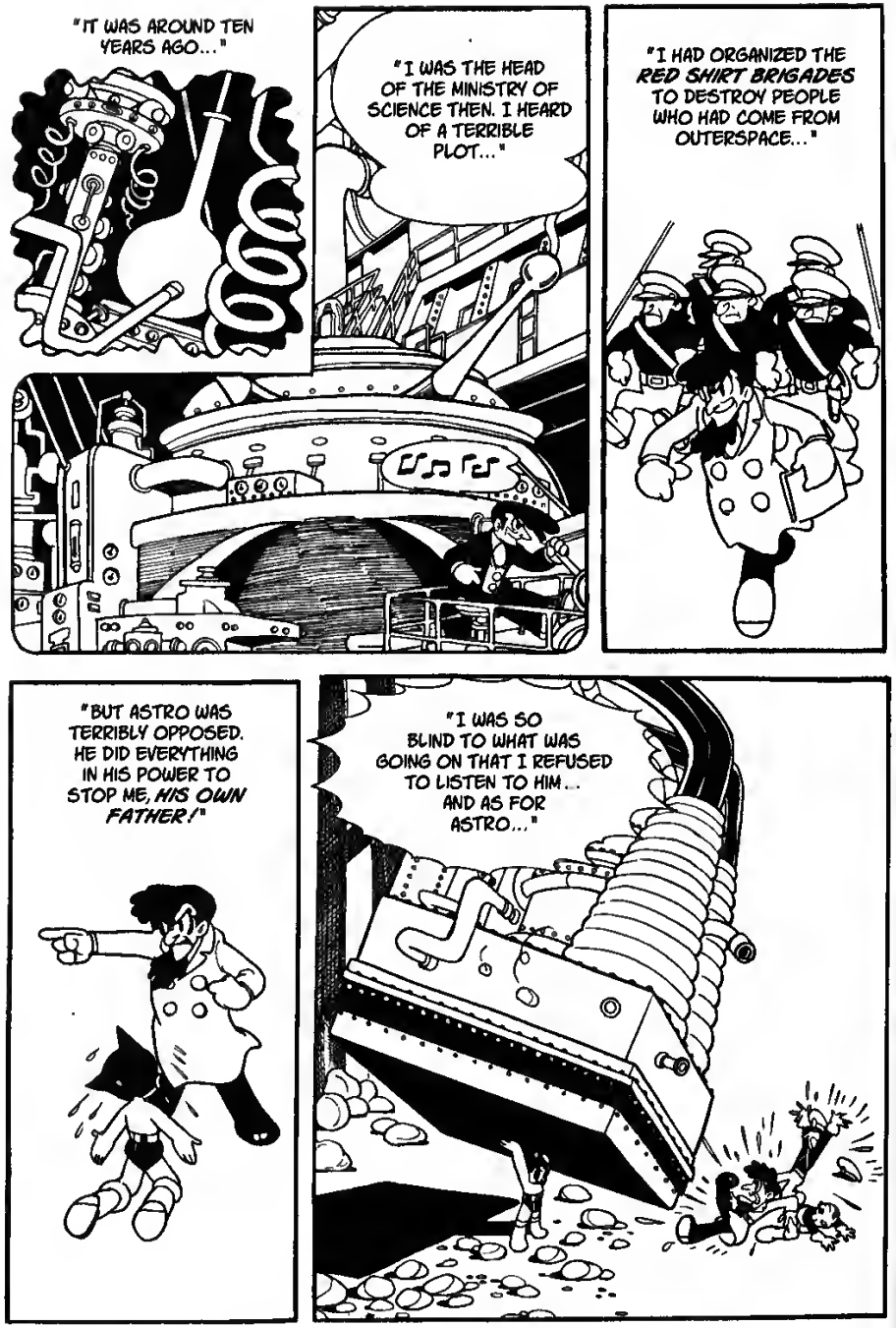

BZZ BZZZ BZZZ
HMM... I DETECT A ROBOT AROUND HERE...
WONDER IF IT'S ASTRO? BUT HE WOULDN'T HIDE FROM ME, SO THAT MEANS IT'S...
HEH HEH HEH...
THAT'S A STUPID TRICK, HIDING UNDERGROUND LIKE A NINJA...
TRYING TO TAKE ME BY SURPRISE, EH?!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

BZZZ ZAP BZZZ ZAP
NOW, FROM DIRECTLY ABOVE...
ZAP ZAP
KABOOM!
THERE HE IS...
...I CAN REALLY POUR ON THE LEAD!
KERPLOW
MUST HAVE BURROWED UNDER-GROUND...
!
HMPH... NOW I GET IT...
HERE SHE COMES...

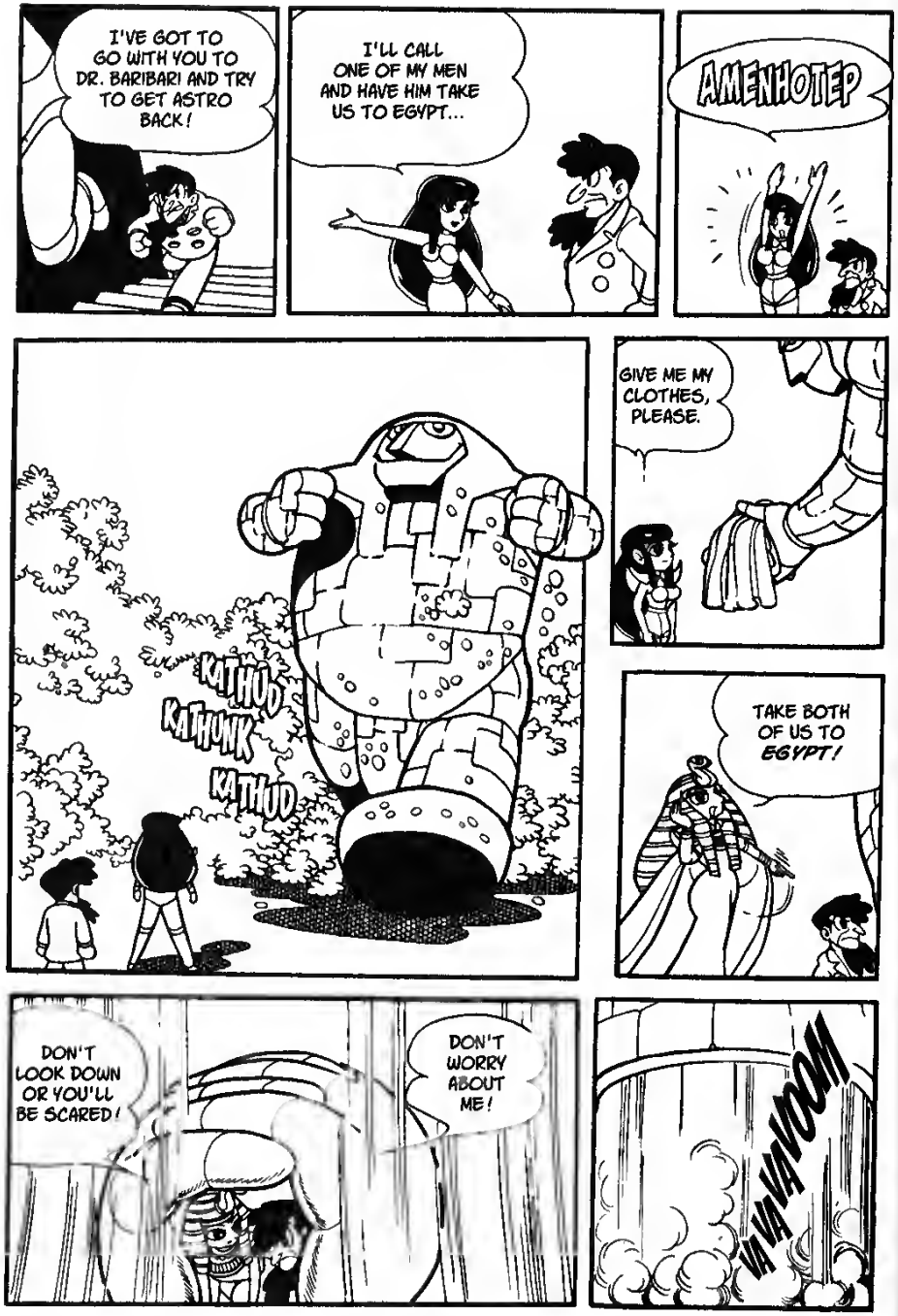
HA HA! THOUGHT YOU COULD SNEAK UP ON ME UNDERGROUND, EH? WELL, GUESS WHAT?! YOU'RE LATE FOR THE PARTY!
KATHUNK
THAT SURE WAS EASY...
HMM... HER HAT'S AN ANTENNA! AND IT'S DIRECTLY HOOKED TO HER ELECTRO-BRAIN!
I BET DR. BARIBARI'S CONTROLLING AND MONITORING EVERYTHING FROM A REMOTE LOCATION!
SO AS LONG AS SHE'S WEARING THIS THING, SHE HAS TO DO WHAT HE SAYS...
SO IT'S OFF WITH THE RABBIT EARS!

SPRONG
WHAT THE --P!
CLICK
BLAST HIM! HE TORE OFF HER WIRELESS HAT!!
RATS! THIS MEANS I CAN'T CONTACT CLEOPATRA...
DR. TENMA MUST'VE BEEN PUT ON EARTH TO DRIVE ME CRAZY!
BZZZ BZZZ BZZZ BZZZ BZZZ
BZZ BZZZ BZZZ BZZ
FLICK
WH.. WHO ARE YOU?
THE MAN YOU TRIED TO KILL!!
WHAT!?
DON'T WORRY! YOU OUGHT TO FEEL BETTER NOW!

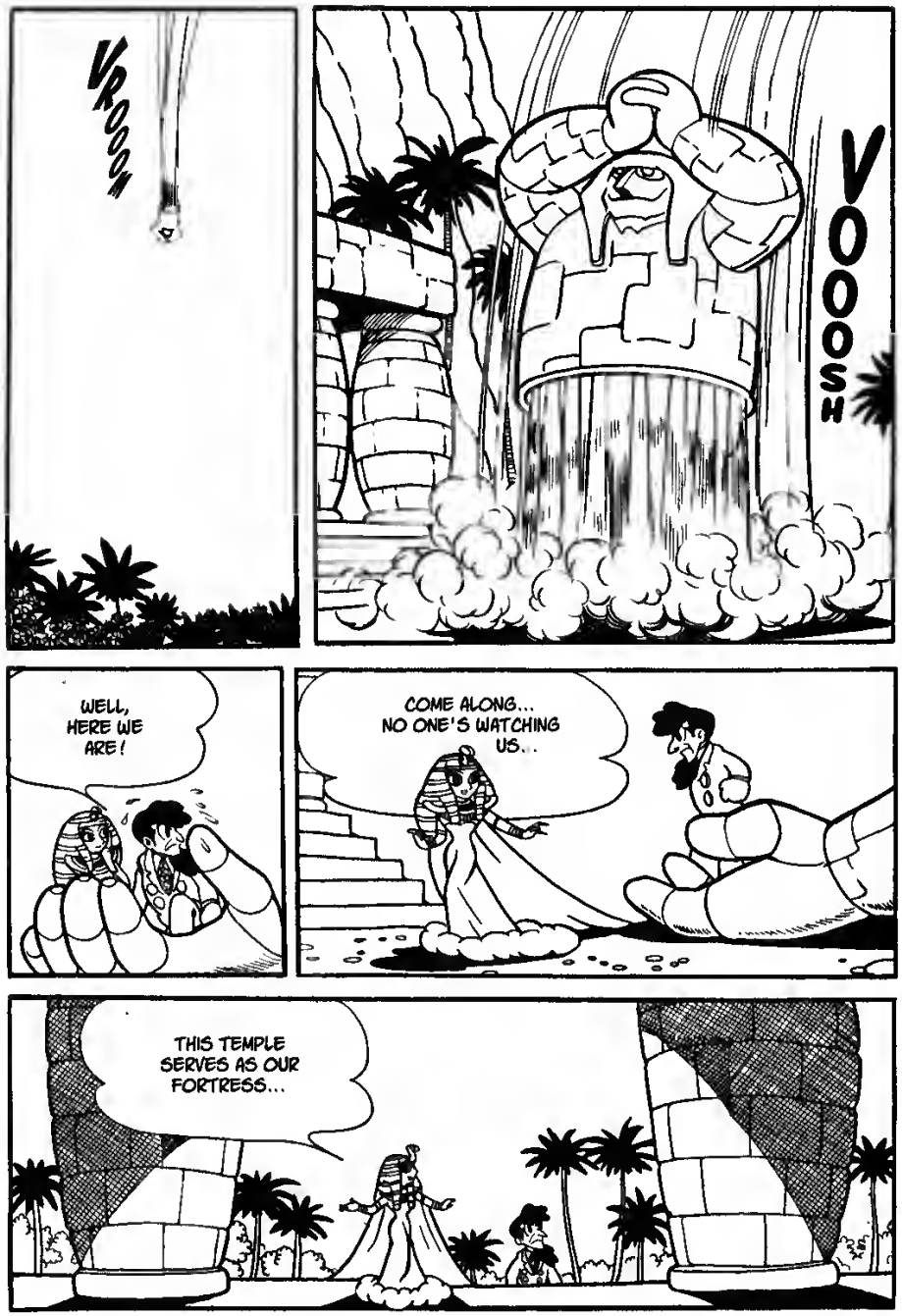
I THREW AWAY THAT NOISY HAT YOU WERE WEARING TO CONTACT DR. BARIBARI!
B... BUT I'LL GET IN TROUBLE!
I DON'T SEE WHY...
DR. BARIBARI WILL GET ANGRY AT ME. HE USES THE HAT TO GIVE ME ORDERS!
WITHOUT MY ANTENNA HAT, I'M DOOMED!
PLEASE... YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE IT BACK TO ME!
HE'LL THINK I'M DEFYING HIM AGAIN!
DR. BARIBARI CREATED ME! I CAN'T DISOBEY HIM...
ROBOTS HAVE TO OBEY THEIR CREATORS!
DON'T BE SO SURE... IT'S NOT THAT WAY ALL THE TIME...
I KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS...
YOU DO?
A ROBOT I MADE ONCE DISOBEYED ME... HIS NAME WAS ASTRO...
THE SAME ASTRO I KNOW?
IT HAPPENED AROUND THE TIME I FIRST MADE HIM...

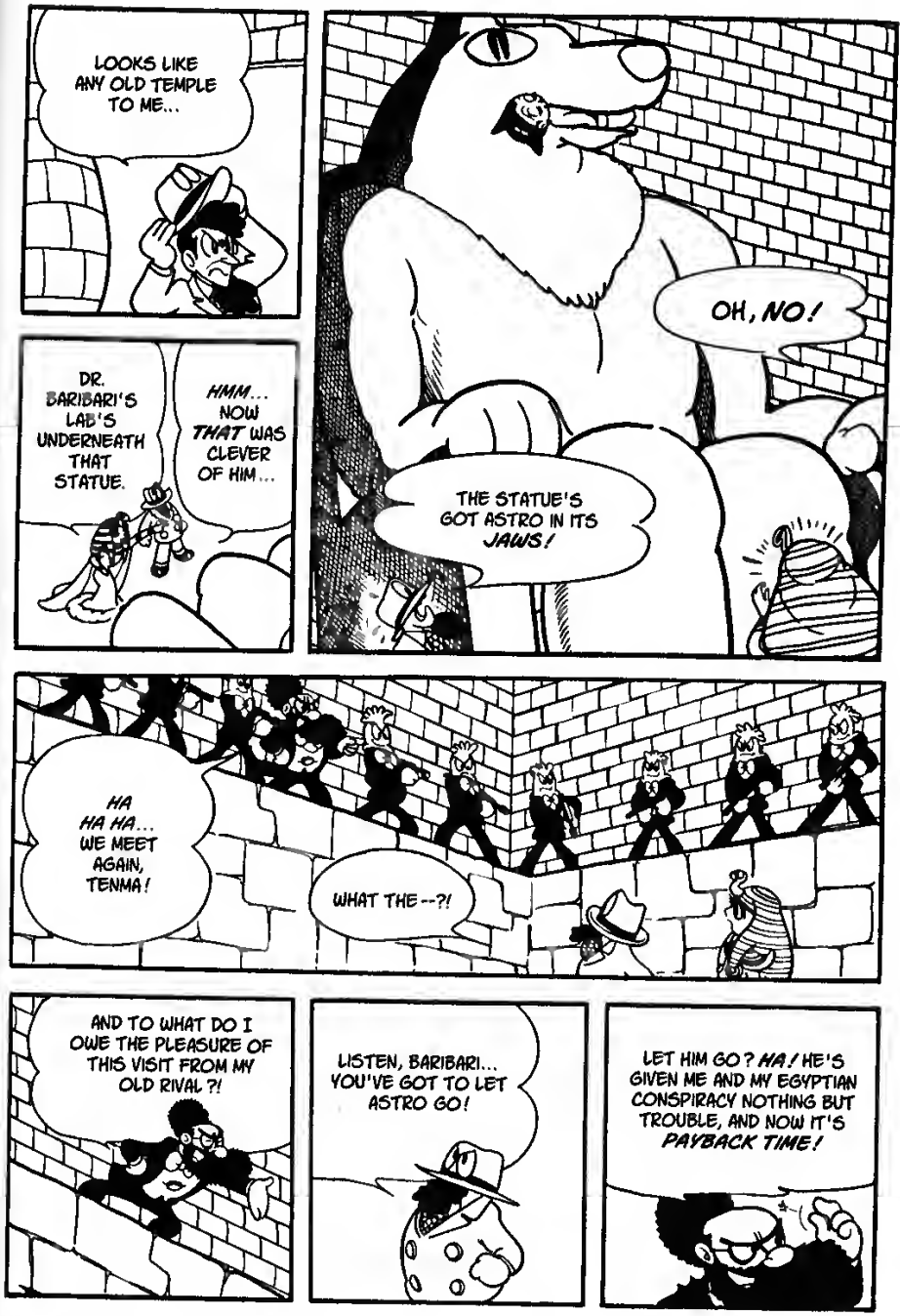

"IT WAS AROUND TEN YEARS AGO..."
"I WAS THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE THEN. I HEARD OF A TERRIBLE PLOT..."
"I HAD ORGANIZED THE RED SHIRT BRIGADES TO DESTROY PEOPLE WHO HAD COME FROM OUTERSPACE..."
"BUT ASTRO WAS TERRIBLY OPPOSED. HE DID EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO STOP ME, HIS OWN FATHER!"
"I WAS SO BLIND TO WHAT WAS GOING ON THAT I REFUSED TO LISTEN TO HIM... AND AS FOR ASTRO..."

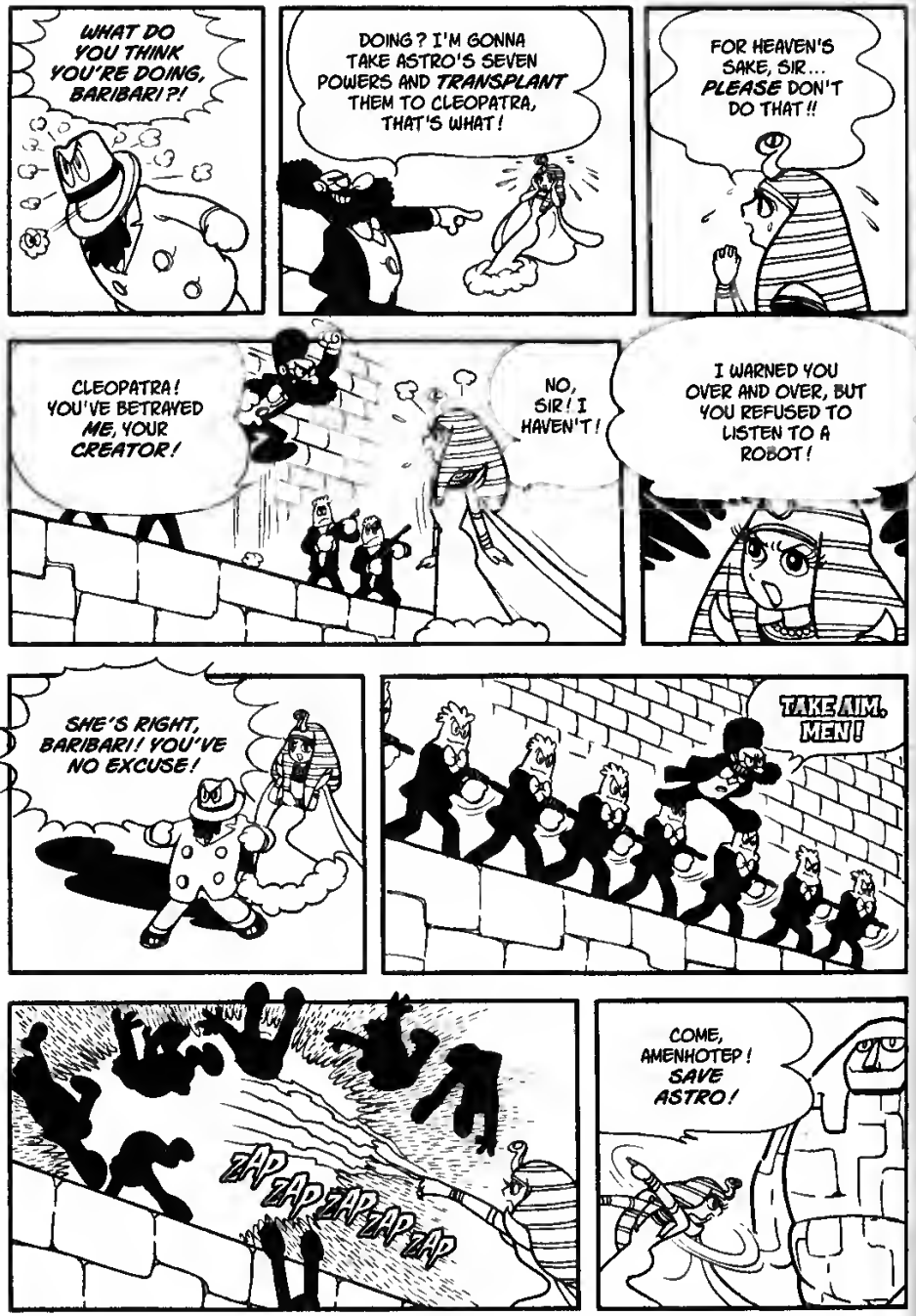
...WELL... ASTRO ACTUALLY BEGAN FIGHTING AGAINST ME. IT WASN'T EASY FOR HIM. IT MUST HAVE NEARLY OVERWHELMED HIS PSYCHO-CIRCUITS.
I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHY... ASTRO CAN DETERMINE WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S WRONG...
BUT I CREATED ASTRO! I'M HIS FATHER! I WAS DOING SOMETHING BAD, AND ASTRO SUFFERED AS A RESULT...
ULTIMATELY, ASTRO WON, AND I LOST. I REALIZED THE ERROR OF MY WAYS, BUT I'VE FELT TOO ASHAMED TO FACE HIM, SO SINCE THEN I'VE PRETENDED AS THOUGH I WERE DEAD...
LISTEN, CLEOPATRA... YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS RIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT THE MAN WHO CREATED YOU SAYS...
YOU MEAN IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO DISOBEY MY PARENT?
THAT'S RIGHT, CLEOPATRA....
I'LL GO BACK TO EGYPT, THEN. I'LL GET DR. BARIBARI TO CHANGE HIS MIND!
AND I'LL ALSO TRY TO HELP ASTRO, TOO!
WHAT? WHAT ABOUT ASTRO?!
DON'T YOU KNOW? HE WAS CAPTURED BY DR. BARIBARI!
WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!

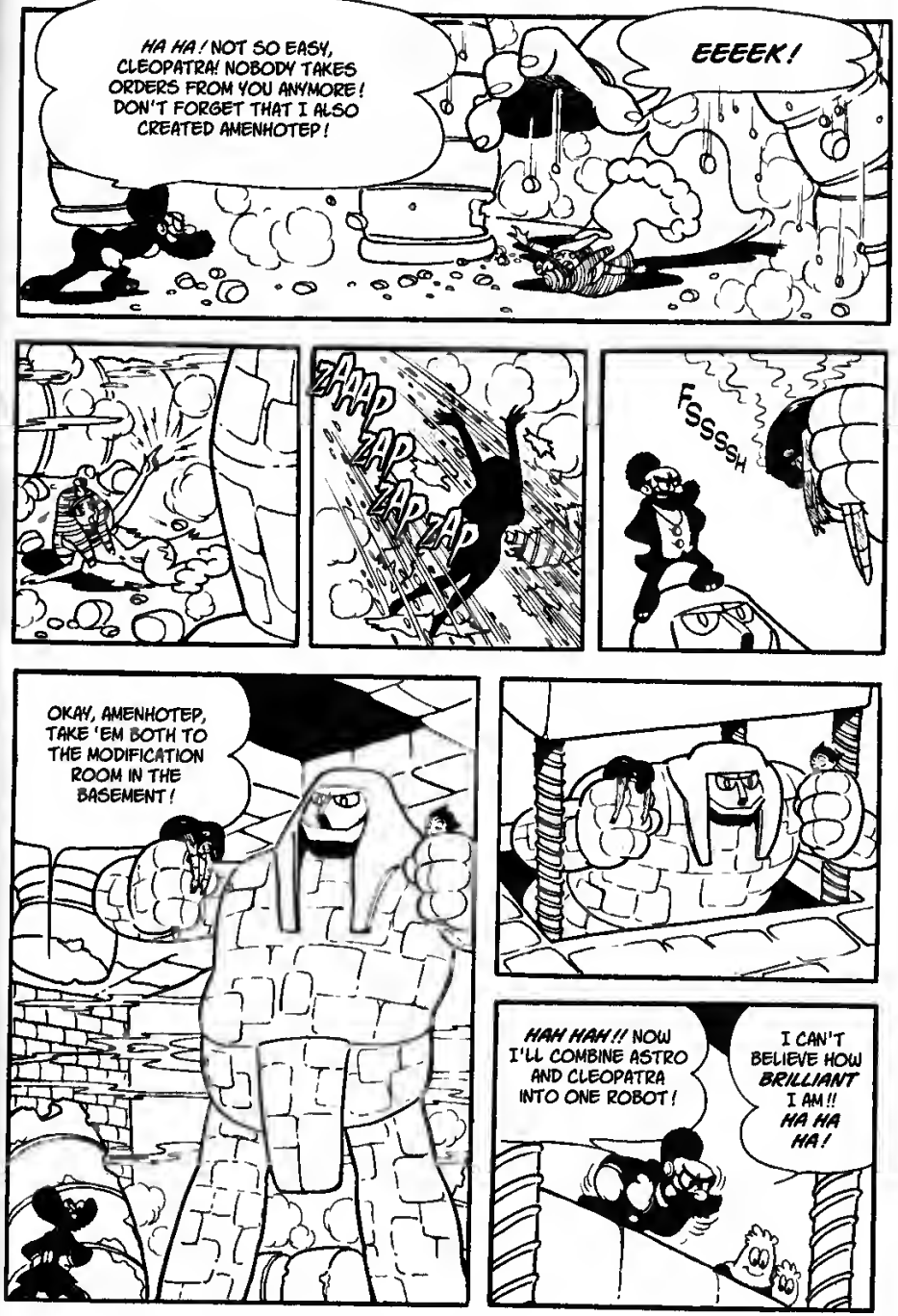

I'VE GOT TO GO WITH YOU TO DR. BARIBARI AND TRY TO GET ASTRO BACK!
I'LL CALL ONE OF MY MEN AND HAVE HIM TAKE US TO EGYPT...
AMENHOTEP
GIVE ME MY CLOTHES, PLEASE.
KATHUD
KATHUNK
KATHUD
TAKE BOTH OF US TO EGYPT!
DON'T LOOK DOWN OR YOU'LL BE SCARED!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
VA VA VAVOOM

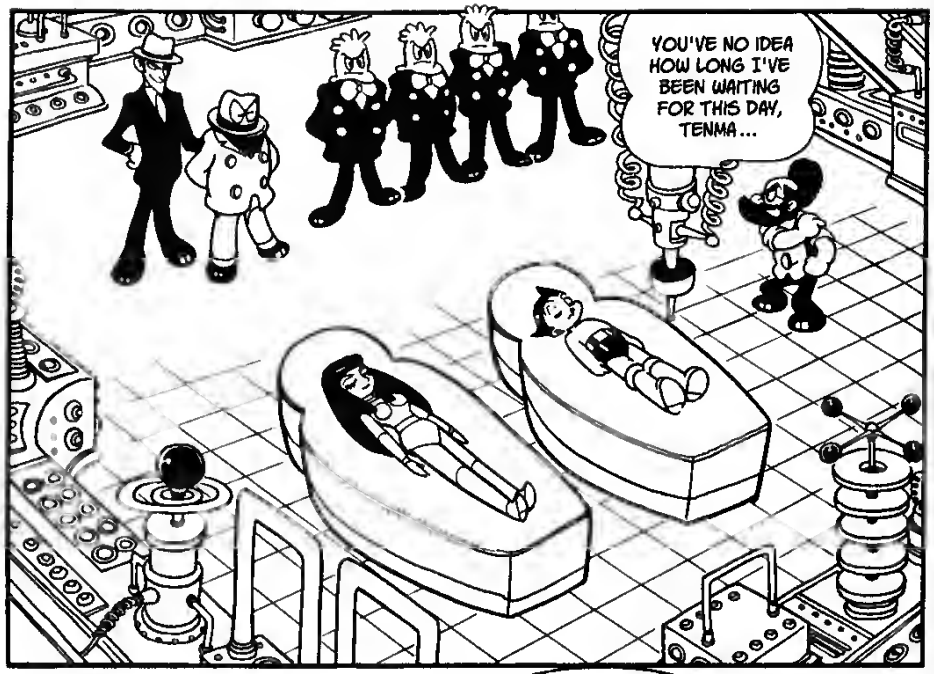
RRROAAARRR
GROAAR
HOLY COW!!
HANG ON TIGHT!
ZOOOM
LOOK! WE'RE OVER THE OCEAN!
NO THANKS! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!


VROOM
VOOOSH
WELL, HERE WE ARE!
COME ALONG... NO ONE'S WATCHING US...
THIS TEMPLE SERVES AS OUR FORTRESS...

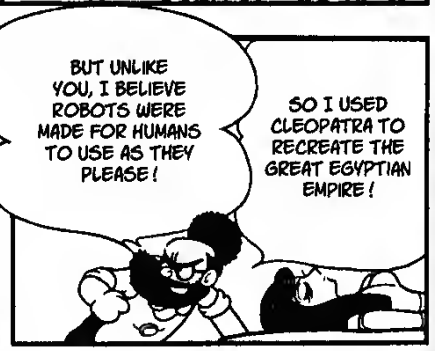

LOOKS LIKE ANY OLD TEMPLE TO ME...
OH, NO!
DR. BARIBARI'S LAB'S UNDERNEATH THAT STATUE.
HMM... NOW THAT WAS CLEVER OF HIM...
THE STATUE'S GOT ASTRO IN ITS JAWS!
HA HA HA... WE MEET AGAIN, TENMA!
WHAT THE--?!
AND TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE OF THIS VISIT FROM MY OLD RIVAL?!
LISTEN, BARIBARI... YOU'VE GOT TO LET ASTRO GO!
LET HIM GO? HA! HE'S GIVEN ME AND MY EGYPTIAN CONSPIRACY NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, AND NOW IT'S PAYBACK TIME!

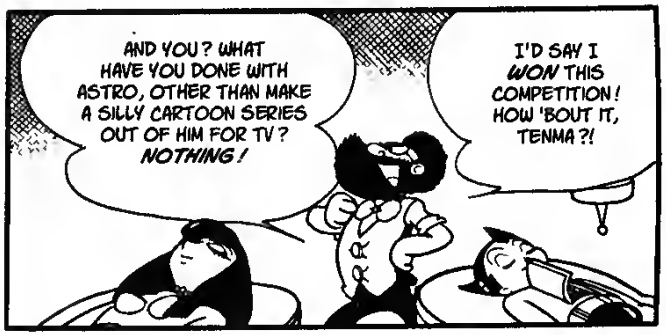

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, BARIBARI?!
DOING? I'M GONNA TAKE ASTRO'S SEVEN POWERS AND TRANSPLANT THEM TO CLEOPATRA, THAT'S WHAT!
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, SIR... PLEASE DON'T DO THAT!!
CLEOPATRA! YOU'VE BETRAYED ME, YOUR CREATOR!
NO, SIR! I HAVEN'T!
I WARNED YOU OVER AND OVER, BUT YOU REFUSED TO LISTEN TO A ROBOT!
SHE'S RIGHT, BARIBARI! YOU'VE NO EXCUSE!
TAKE AIM, MEN!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
COME, AMENHOTEP! SAVE ASTRO!


HA HA! NOT SO EASY, CLEOPATRA! NOBODY TAKES ORDERS FROM YOU ANYMORE! DON'T FORGET THAT I ALSO CREATED AMENHOTEP!
EEEEK!
ZAAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
FSSSSH
OKAY, AMENHOTEP, TAKE 'EM BOTH TO THE MODIFICATION ROOM IN THE BASEMENT!
HAH HAH!! NOW I'LL COMBINE ASTRO AND CLEOPATRA INTO ONE ROBOT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW BRILLIANT I AM!! HA HA HA!


YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY, TENMA...

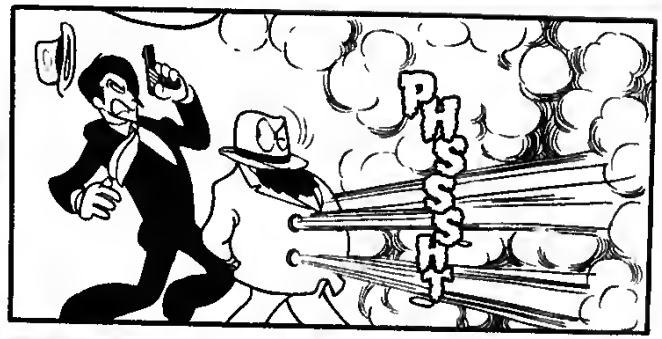
WE'VE BEEN RIVALS FOR AGES... I MADE CLEOPATRA, AND YOU MADE ASTRO!


BUT UNLIKE YOU, I BELIEVE ROBOTS WERE MADE FOR HUMANS TO USE AS THEY PLEASE!
SO I USED CLEOPATRA TO RECREATE THE GREAT EGYPTIAN EMPIRE!

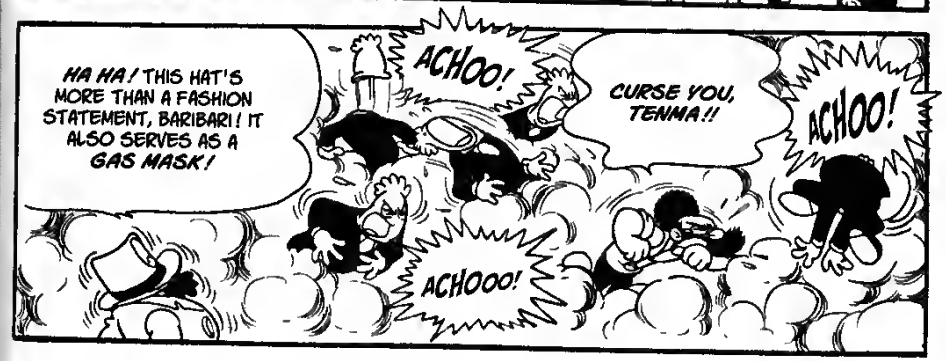

AND YOU? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH ASTRO, OTHER THAN MAKE A SILLY CARTOON SERIES OUT OF HIM FOR TV? NOTHING!
I'D SAY I WON THIS COMPETITION! HOW 'BOUT IT, TENMA?!

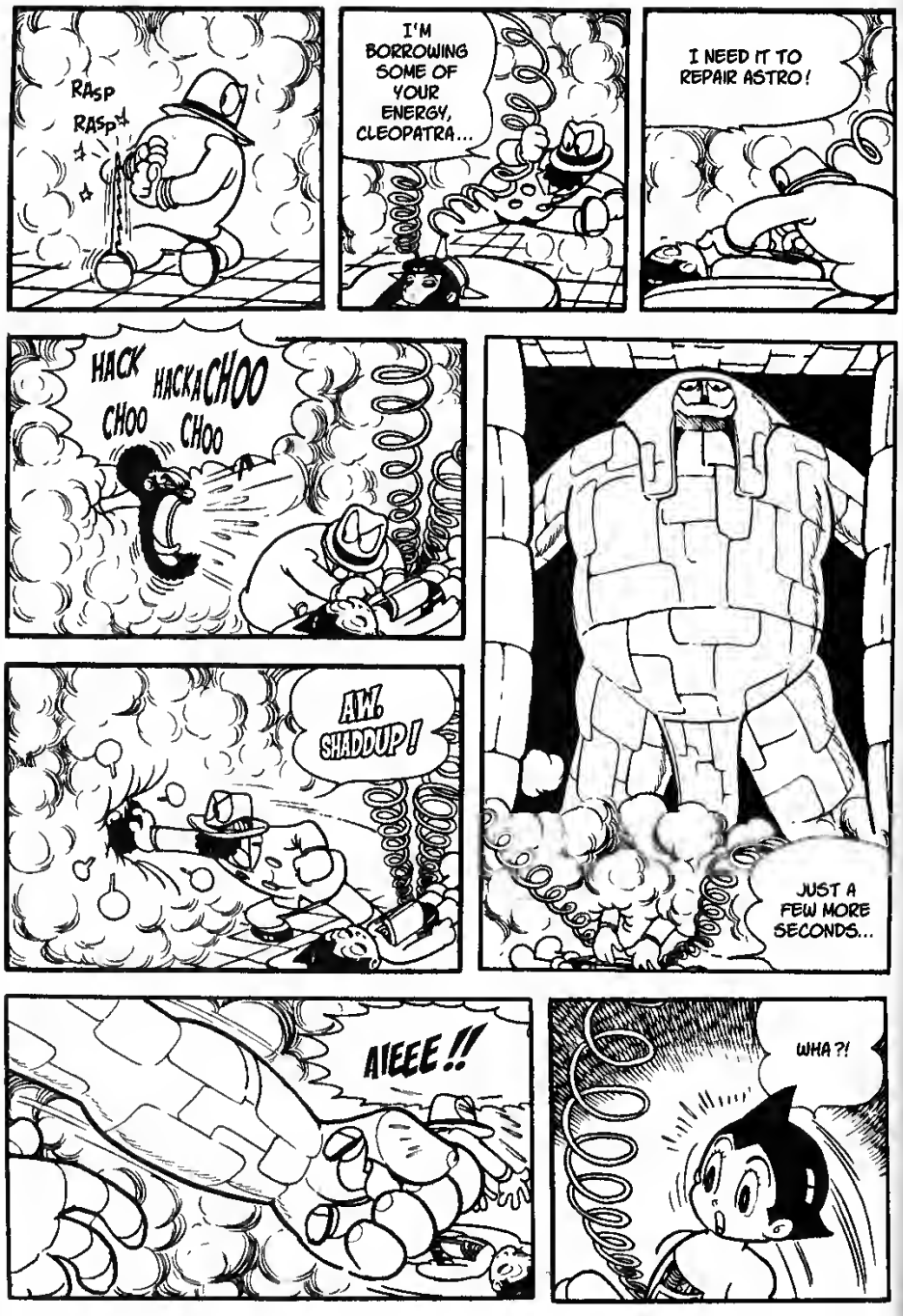
THE GAME'S NOT OVER YET, BARIBARI!

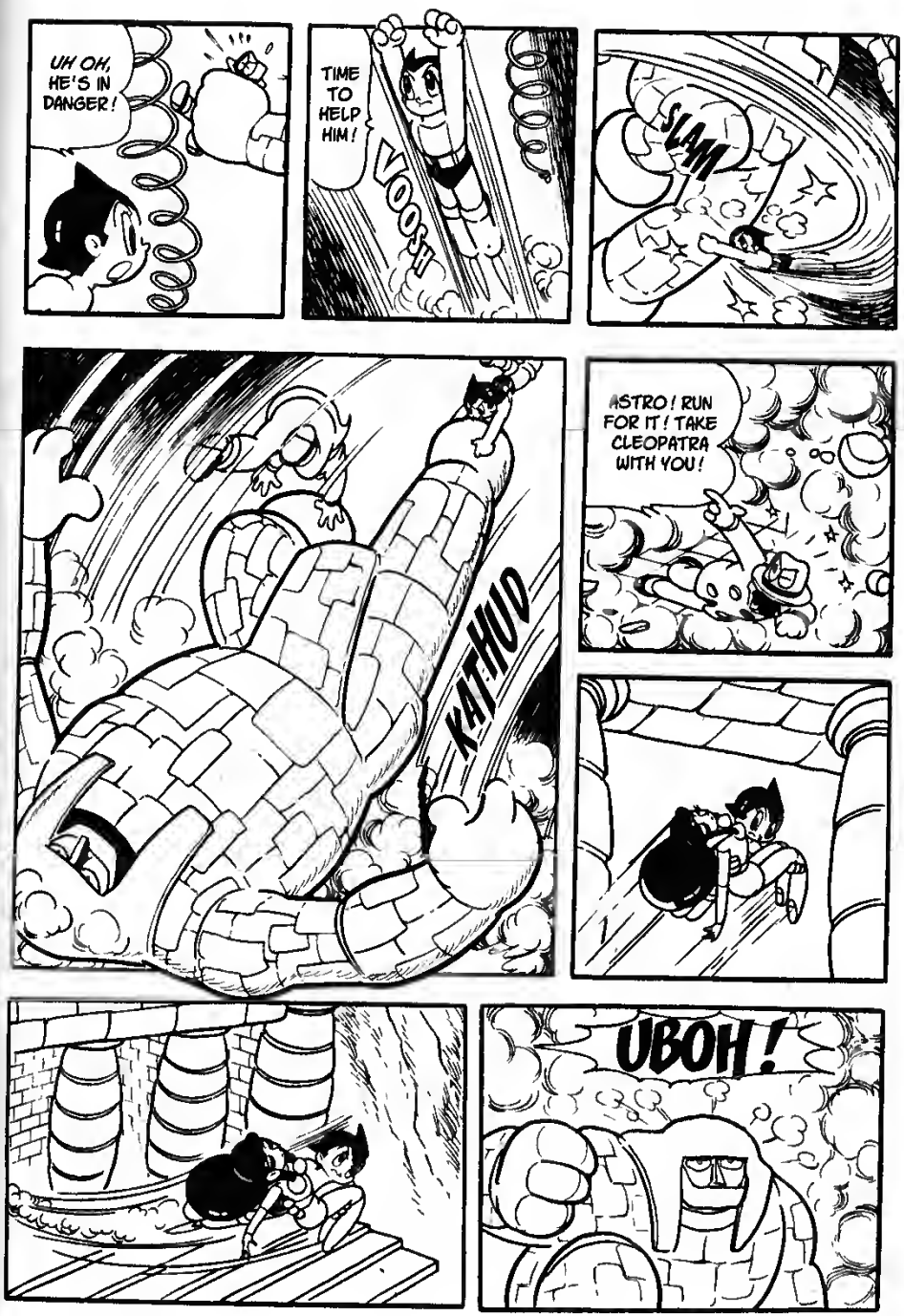
NAW, YOU'RE JUST A LOUSY LOSER, THAT'S WHAT. NOW WATCH AS I BRING A NEW AND IMPROVED CLEOPATRA BACK TO LIFE!

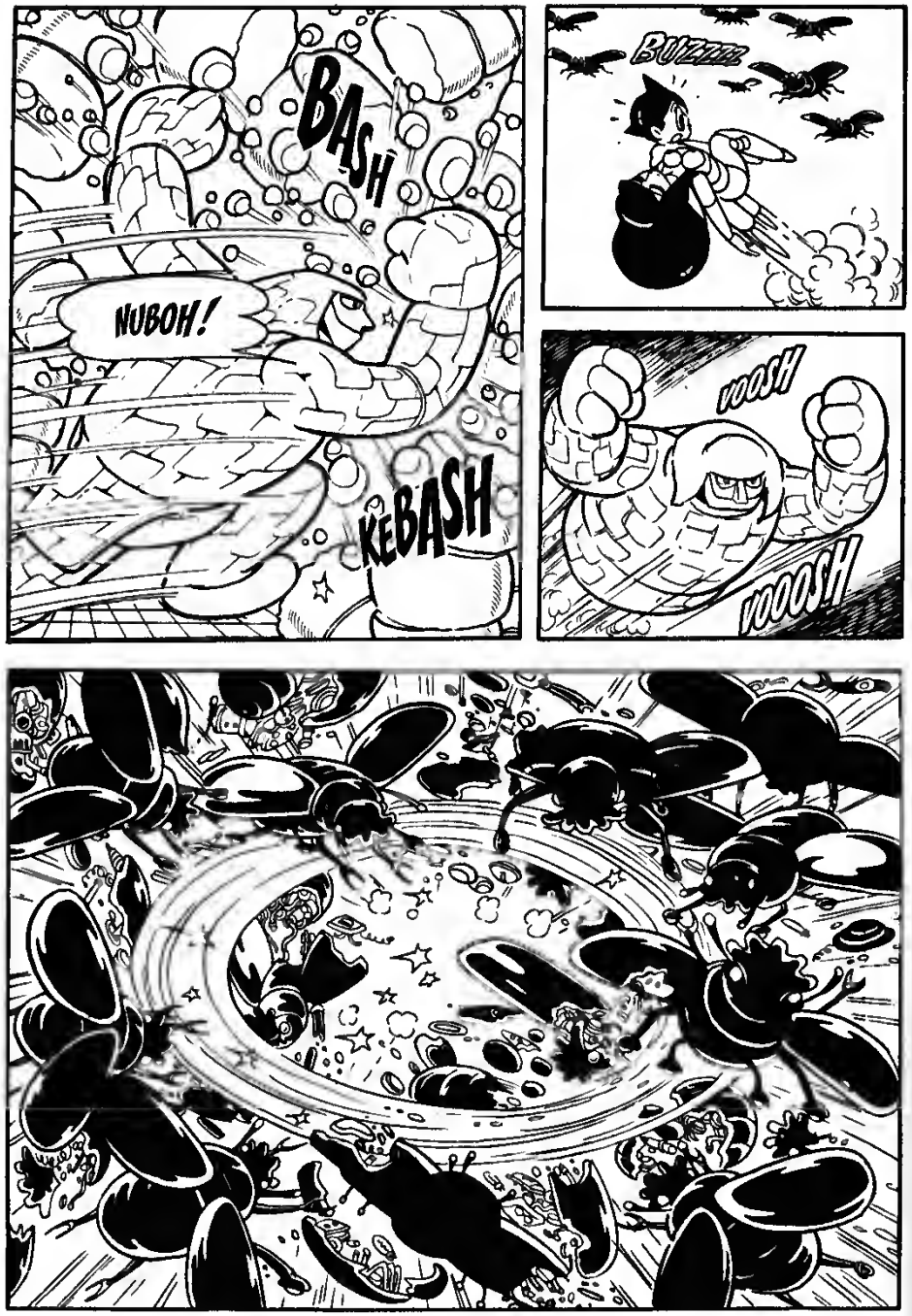

PHSSSH!

ACHOOO!
AAAACHOOOO!
BLAST IT!! WHAT'VE YOU DONE?!

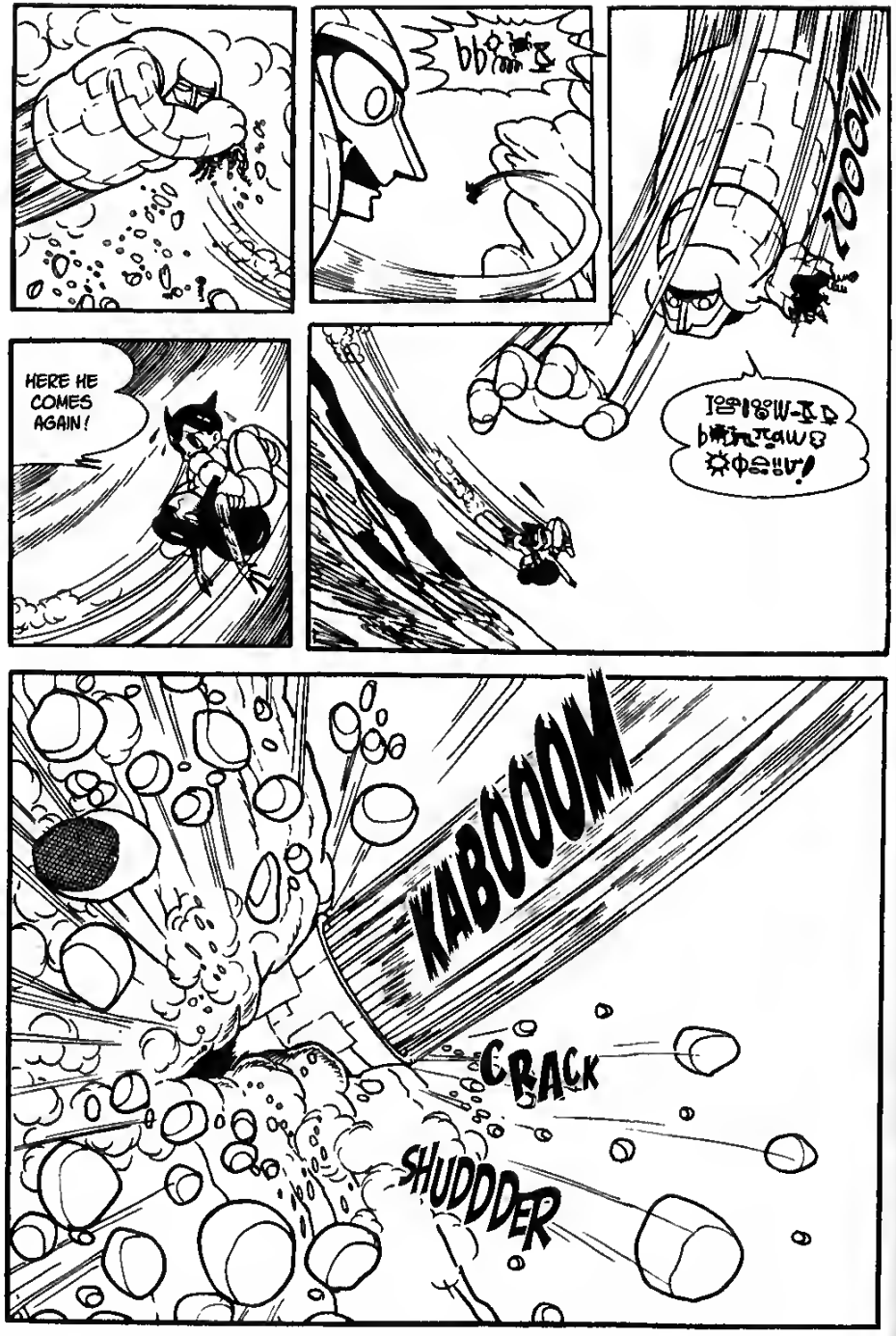

HA HA! THIS HAT'S MORE THAN A FASHION STATEMENT, BARIBARI! IT ALSO SERVES AS A GAS MASK!
ACHOO!
CURSE YOU, TENMA!!
ACHOO!
ACHOOO!


RASP
RASP
I'M BORROWING SOME OF YOUR ENERGY, CLEOPATRA...
I NEED IT TO REPAIR ASTRO!
HACK CHOO
HACKA CHOO
CHOO
AW, SHADDUP!
JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS...
AIEEE!!
WHA?!

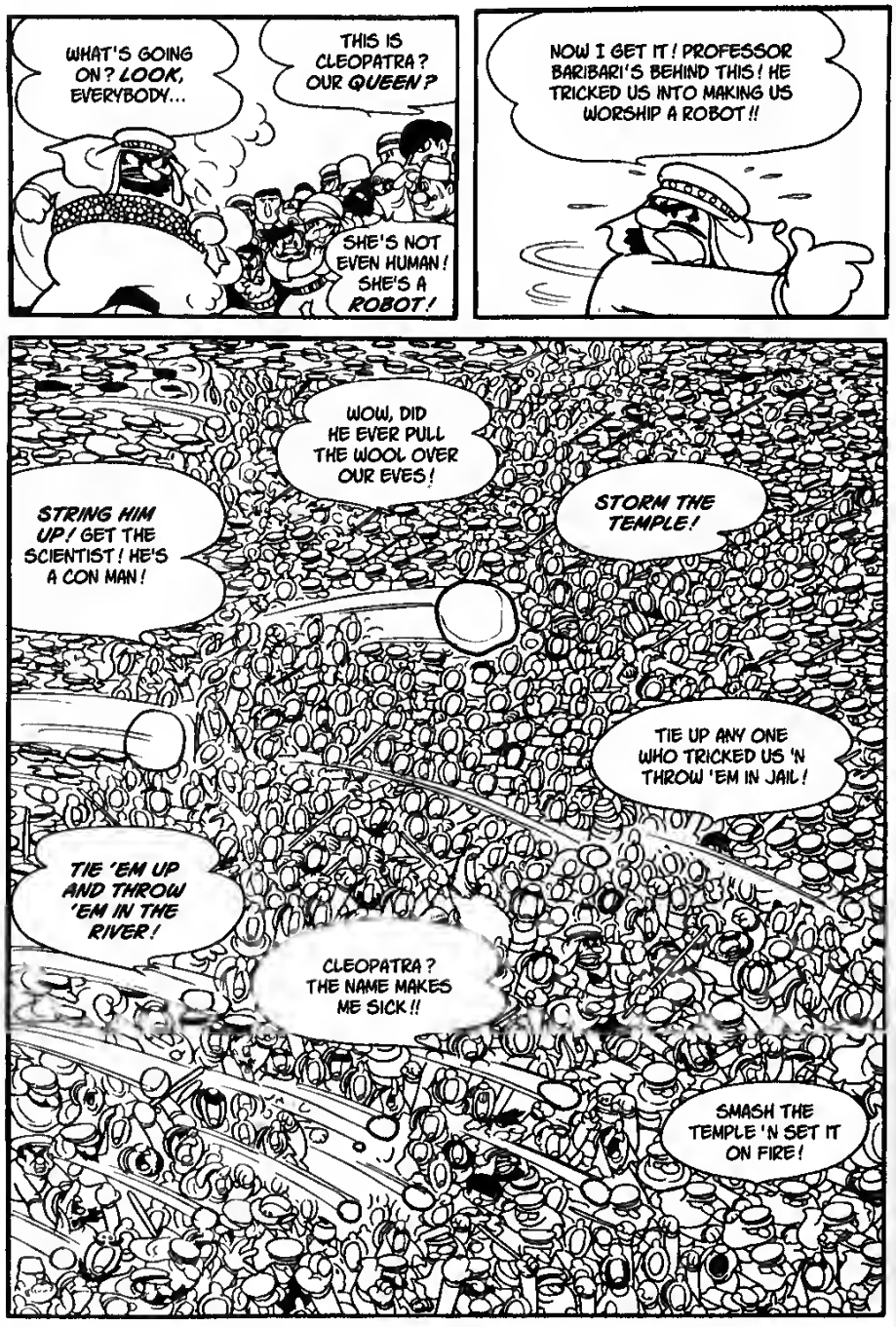

UH OH, HE'S IN DANGER!
TIME TO HELP HIM!
VOOSH
SLAM
KATHUD
ASTRO! RUN FOR IT! TAKE CLEOPATRA WITH YOU!
UBOH!

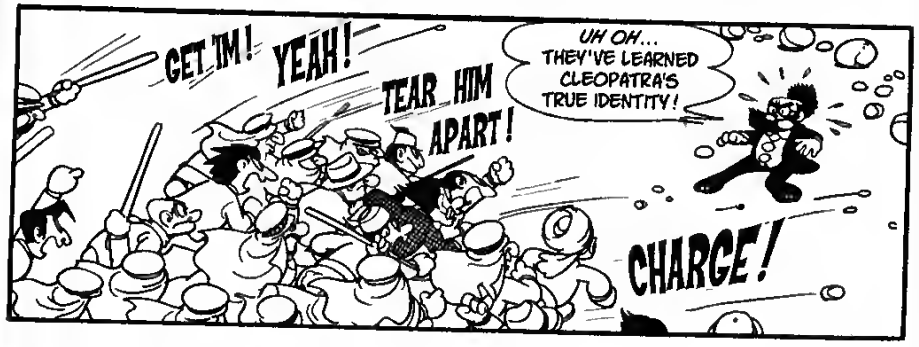

BASH
NUBOH!
KEBASH
BUZZZZ
VOOSH
VOOOSH

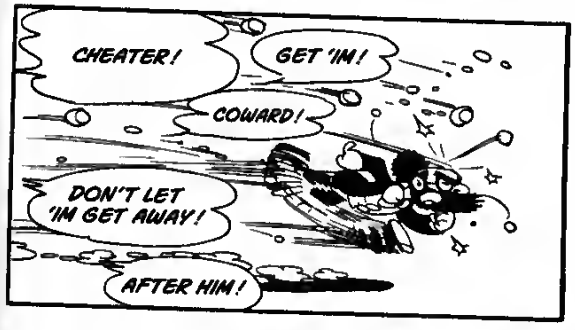
ARGH!!
VOOOSH!
VOOSH
UH OH... IT'S THAT MAGNETIC FORCE AGAIN!!
I... I CAN'T STOP IT...
BUT IF I CAN'T STOP IT, WHY RESIST?!
SMASH


HERE HE COMES AGAIN!
KABOOOM
CRACK
SHUDDER

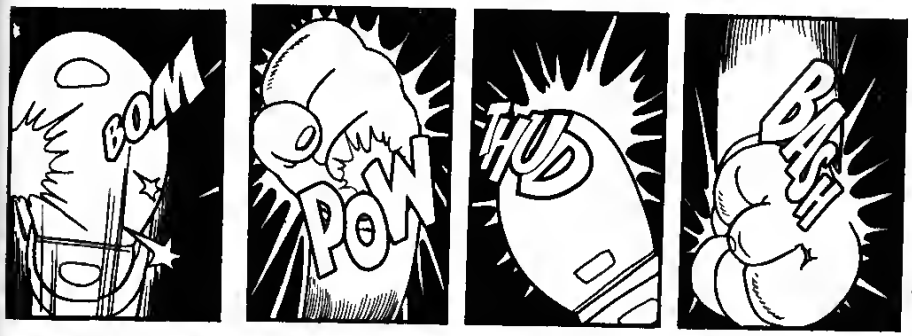
HE DID IT! HE DID IT!
YAY! AMENHOTEP NAILED ASTRO INTO THE WALL!!
UH OH... CLEOPATRA'S BEEN TOSSED OUT OF THE TEMPLE!!
HEY, LOOK... IT'S RAINING GIRLS...
HEY, IT'S HER HIGHNESS CLEOPATRA!
WAIT A SEC... SOME-THING'S WEIRD...

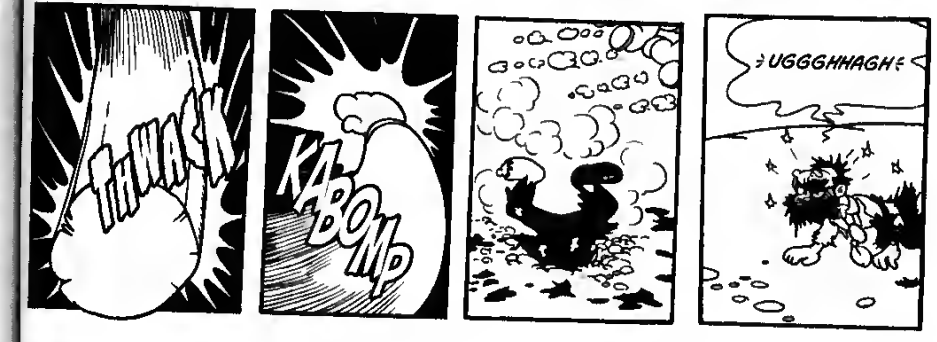

WHAT'S GOING ON? LOOK, EVERYBODY...
THIS IS CLEOPATRA? OUR QUEEN?
SHE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN! SHE'S A ROBOT!
NOW I GET IT! PROFESSOR BARIBARI'S BEHIND THIS! HE TRICKED US INTO MAKING US WORSHIP A ROBOT!!
WOW, DID HE EVER PULL THE WOOL OVER OUR EYES!
STRING HIM UP! GET THE SCIENTIST! HE'S A CON MAN!
STORM THE TEMPLE!
TIE UP ANY ONE WHO TRICKED US 'N THROW 'EM IN JAIL!
TIE 'EM UP AND THROW 'EM IN THE RIVER!
CLEOPATRA? THE NAME MAKES ME SICK!!
SMASH THE TEMPLE 'N SET IT ON FIRE!

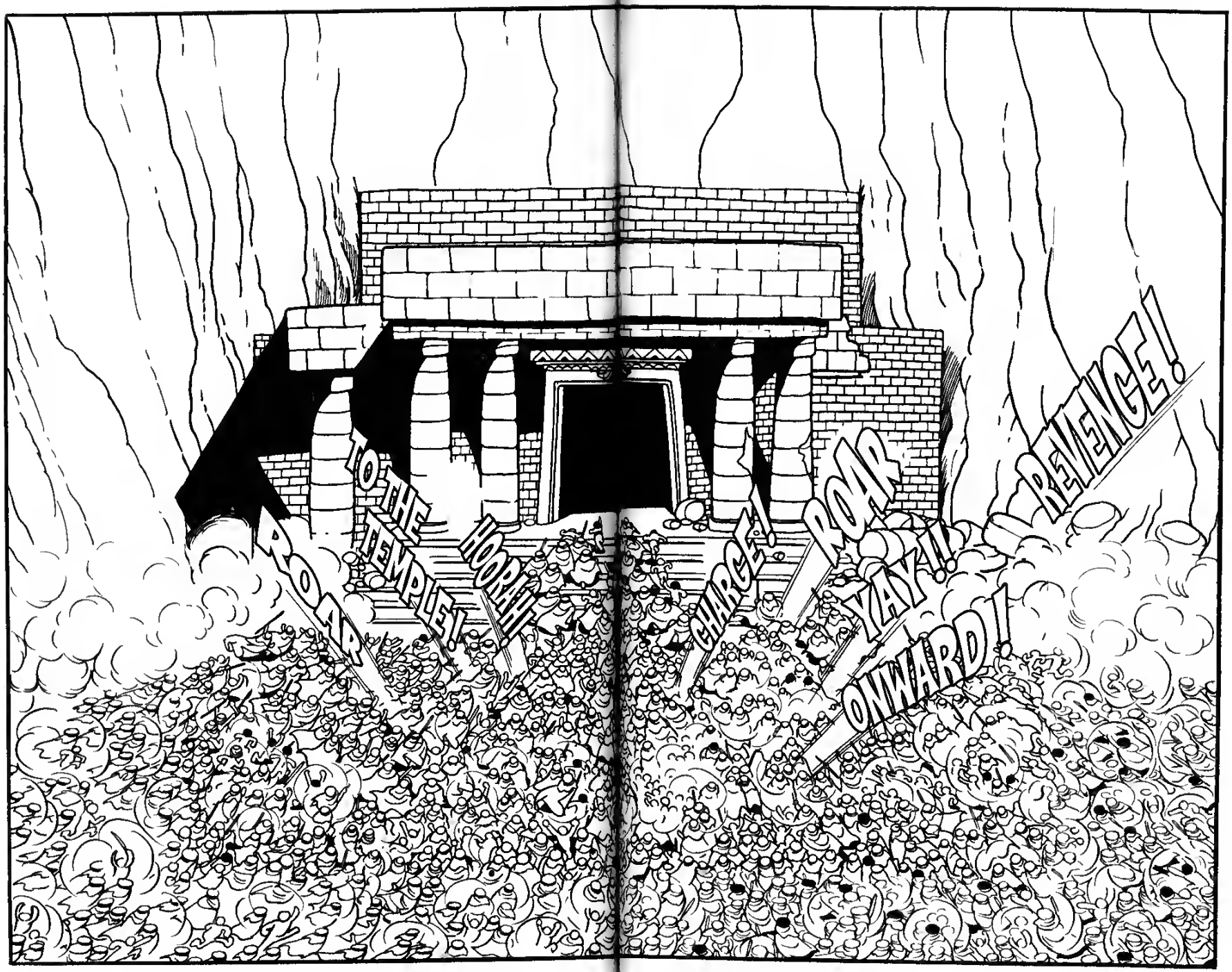

GET 'IM!
YEAH!
TEAR HIM APART!
UH OH... THEY'VE LEARNED CLEOPATRA'S TRUE IDENTITY!
CHARGE!


CHEATER!
GET 'IM!
COWARD!
DON'T LET 'IM GET AWAY!
AFTER HIM!

A'CK!
WAIT... LISTEN TO ME!!
ARGHUM


BOM
POW
HUD
BASH


WHACK
KABOMP
UGGGHHAGH

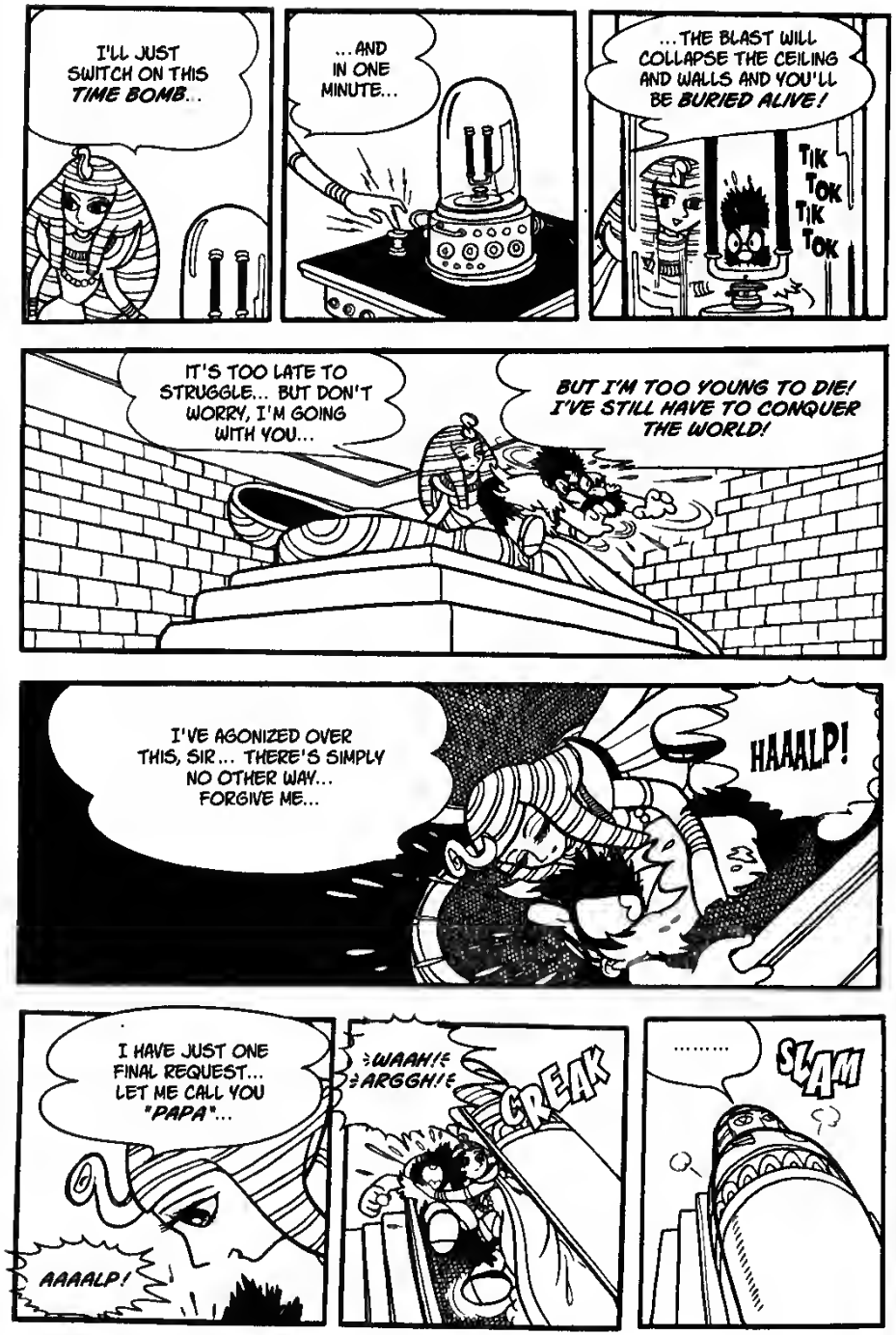

ROAR
TO THE TEMPLE!
HOORAH!
CHARGE!
ROAR
YAY!!
ONWARD!
REVENGE!

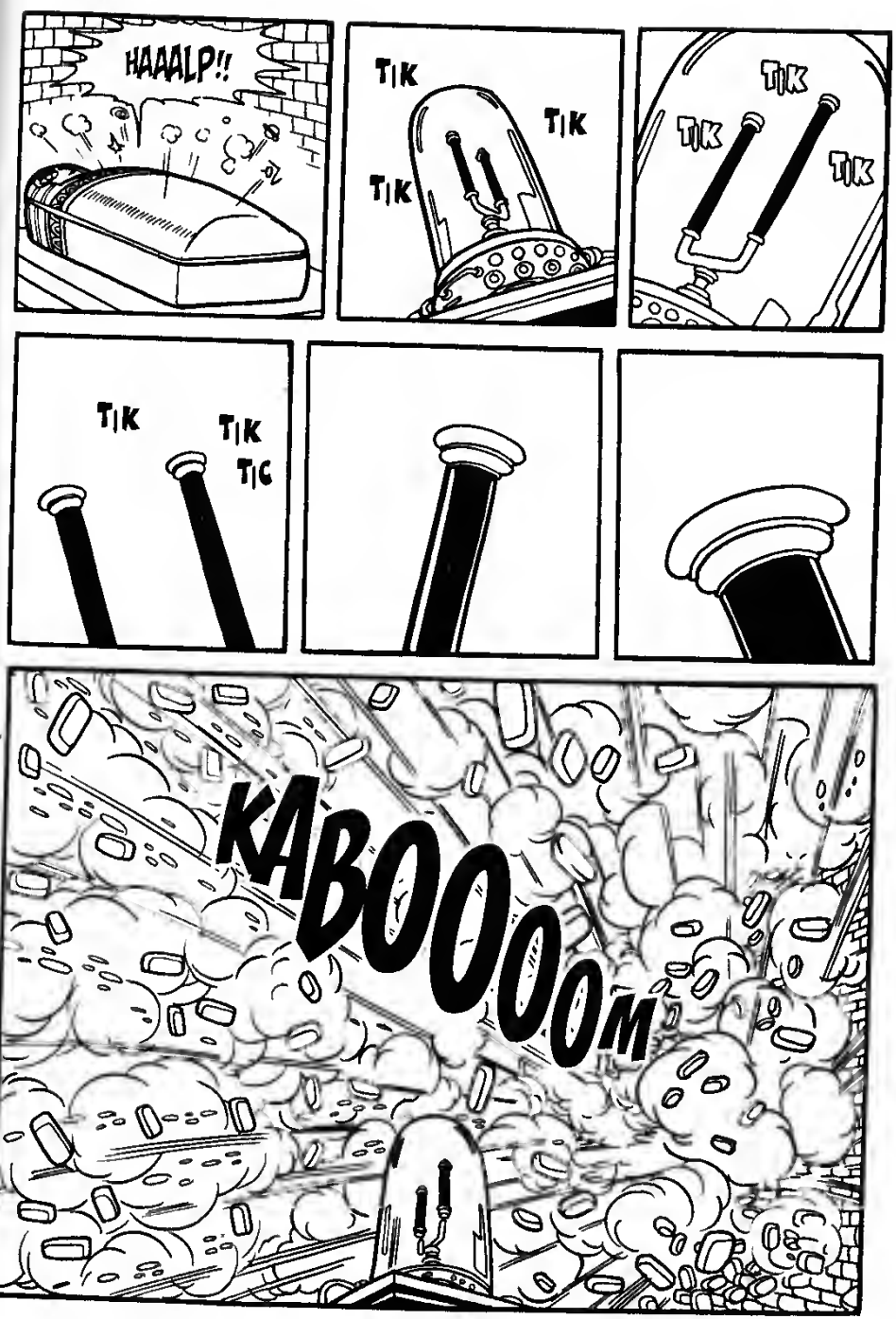
POOR C...CLEO... PATRA...
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO... I'LL REPAIR YOU AND BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE AS QUEEN AGAIN...
...AND MAKE YOU SILENCE THAT RABBLE!
CREAK
I'VE GOTTA MAKE THEM *BELIEVE* IN YOU AGAIN! AFTER GETTING THIS FAR, I CAN'T LET ALL MY EFFORTS GO TO WASTE!

KNOCK DOWN THE IDOLS 'N SELL 'EM TO THE STONE CUTTER!
THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE MORE FUN THIS IS!
POUR ON THE GASOLINE! TORCH THE PLACE! DRIVE OUT ANYONE INSIDE!
BLAM
RAT-AT-AT-AT-AT-AT
RAT-AT-AT-AT-AT
B...BOSS... WHAT'LL WE DO?
AIEE!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
C'MON CLEOPATRA! WAKE UP!!

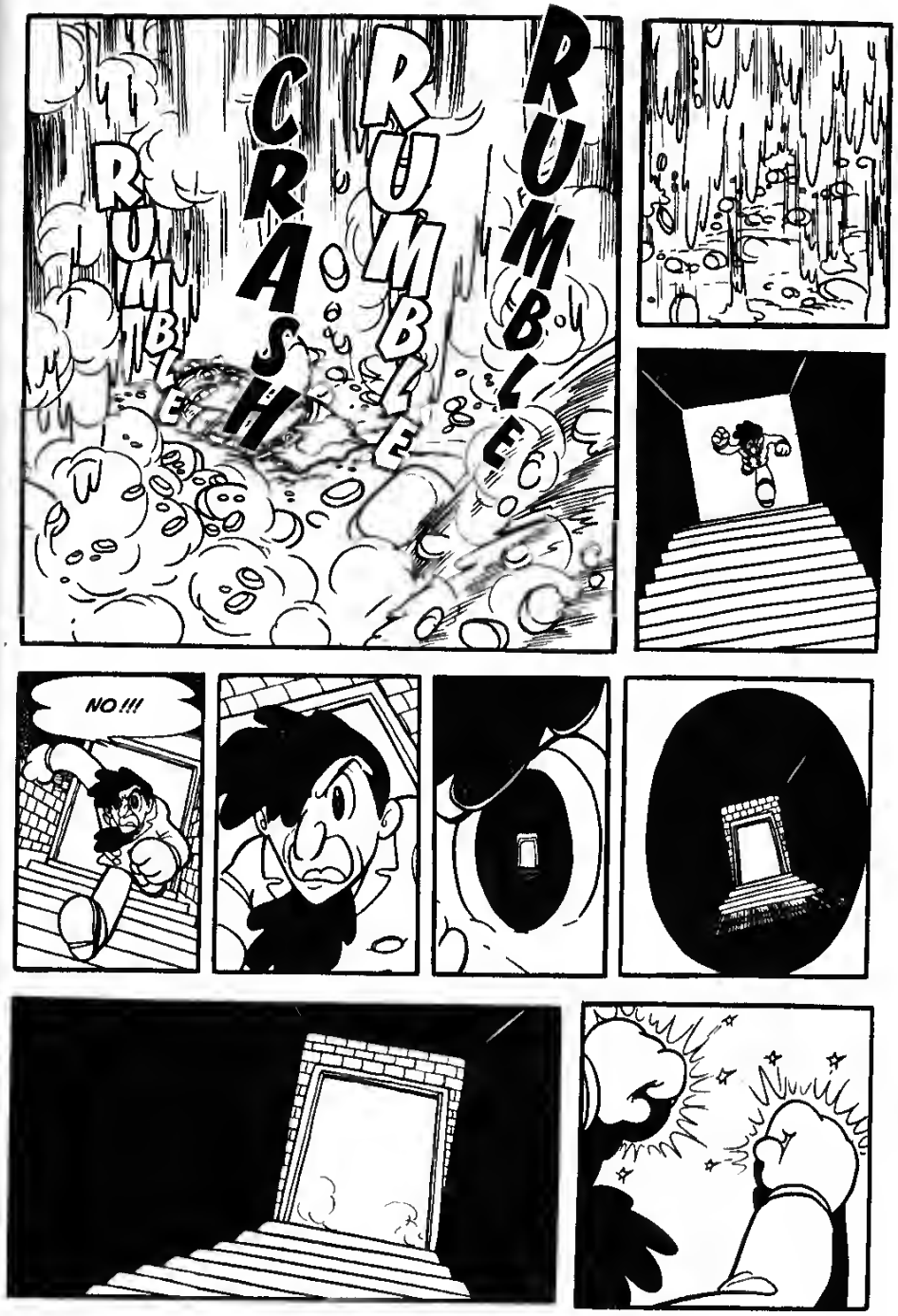
BZZZ
BUZZZZ
ZAP
ZAPP
CLEOPATRA! OPEN YOUR EYES! YOU'RE FIXED!
CHK
CLEO-PATRA !!
DR. BARI-BARI!
HERE, CLEOPATRA! PUT ON YOUR GOWN AND WEAR THIS NECKLACE!
NOW GO OUT BEFORE THEM AND ANNOUNCE TO THEM, "I AM A HUMAN!"
I CAN'T SAY THAT...
WHAT?!
YOU TOLD ME I WAS THE QUEEN, RIGHT?
RIGHT! THE QUEEN OF ALL EGYPT!
WELL, AS QUEEN, I'M COMMANDING YOU! I WANT YOU TO DIE!
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO DIE?! ME?!
THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRACY IS FINISHED!
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?! YOU'RE NUTS!!

LEMME GO!
STOP! HELP!
YOU WANTED TO BE KING OF THE WORLD, BARIBARI!
SO YOU DESERVE A KING'S DEATH!
WHA?!
CREEK
B-BUT I DON'T WANNA DIE YET!!
THIS IS THE TOMB IN THE BASEMENT OF THE TEMPLE!

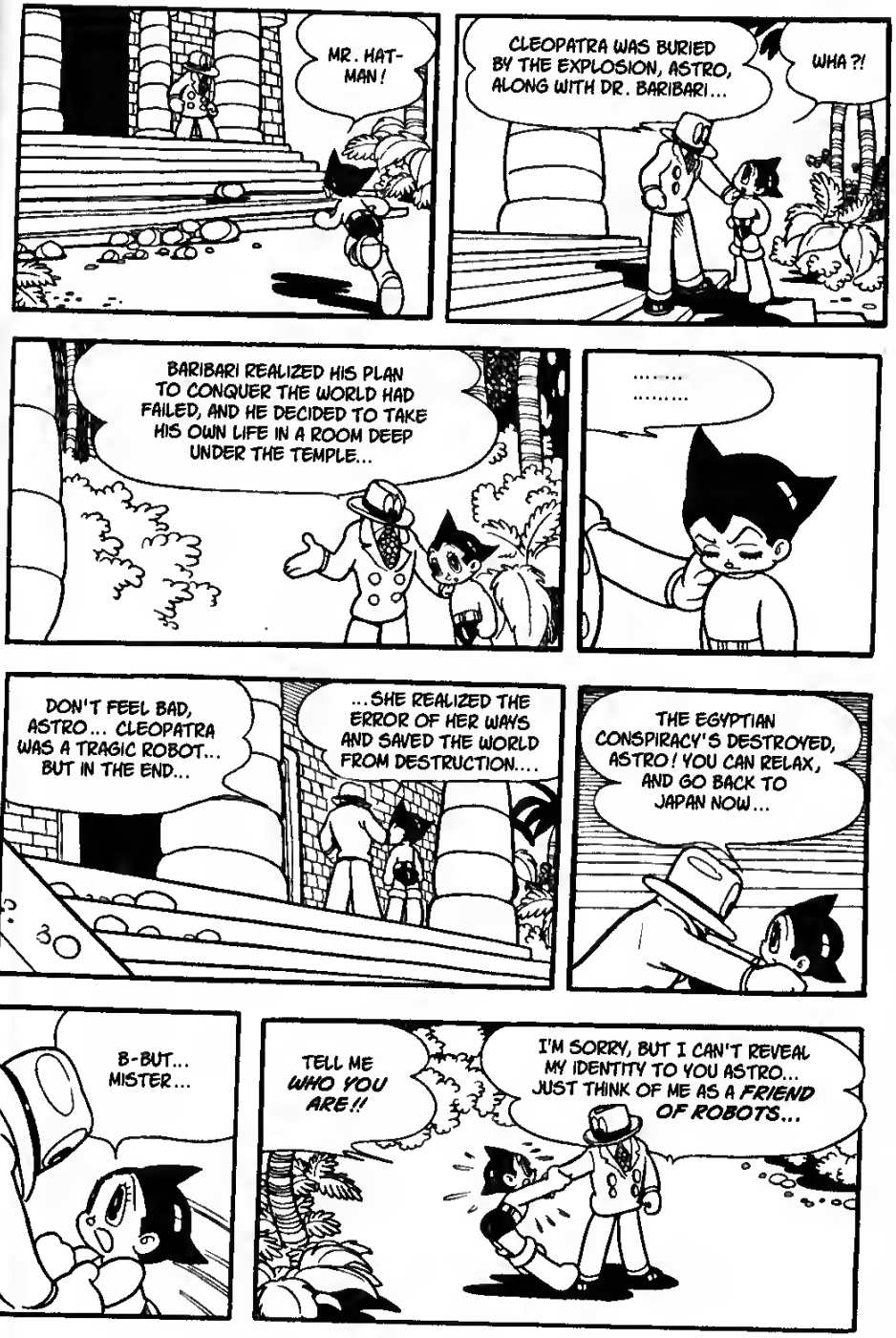

I'LL JUST SWITCH ON THIS TIME BOMB...
...AND IN ONE MINUTE...
...THE BLAST WILL COLLAPSE THE CEILING AND WALLS AND YOU'LL BE BURIED ALIVE!
TIK TOK TIK TOK
IT'S TOO LATE TO STRUGGLE... BUT DON'T WORRY, I'M GOING WITH YOU...
BUT I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE! I'VE STILL HAVE TO CONQUER THE WORLD!
I'VE AGONIZED OVER THIS, SIR... THERE'S SIMPLY NO OTHER WAY... FORGIVE ME...
HAAALP!
I HAVE JUST ONE FINAL REQUEST... LET ME CALL YOU "PAPA"...
AAAALP!
WAAH!
ARGGH!
CREAK
.....
SLAM


HAAALP!!
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIC
KABOOOOM

RUMBLE
CRASH
RUMBLE
CRASH
ROAR


RUMBLE
CRASH
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
NO!!!

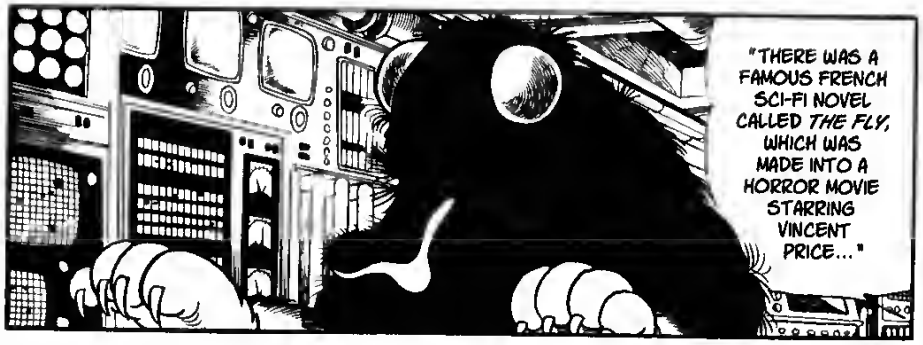
I'M TOO LATE!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
POOR BARIBARI... MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE...
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRACY...
POW
WHEW!
HEH... HEH... GUESS I SMASHED A HOLE IN HIS REAR!
CLEOPATRA!!
CLEOPATRA! ARE YOU OKAY?!
CLEOPATRA'S DEAD, ASTRO...

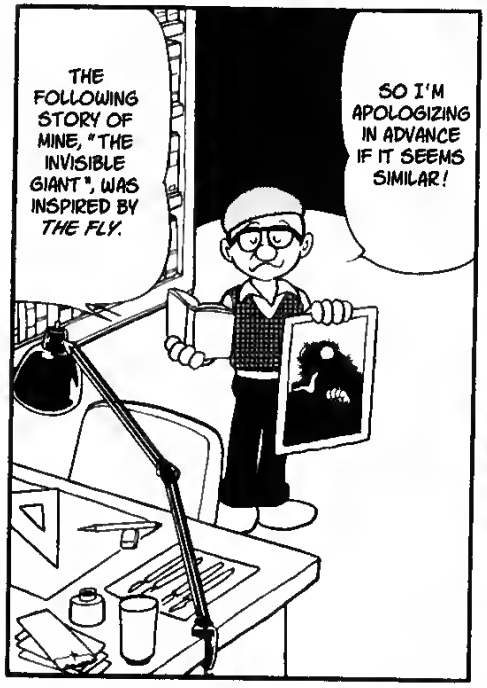

MR. HAT-MAN!
CLEOPATRA WAS BURIED BY THE EXPLOSION, ASTRO, ALONG WITH DR. BARIBARI...
WHA?!
BARIBARI REALIZED HIS PLAN TO CONQUER THE WORLD HAD FAILED, AND HE DECIDED TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE IN A ROOM DEEP UNDER THE TEMPLE...
.....
.....
DON'T FEEL BAD, ASTRO... CLEOPATRA WAS A TRAGIC ROBOT... BUT IN THE END...
...SHE REALIZED THE ERROR OF HER WAYS AND SAVED THE WORLD FROM DESTRUCTION....
THE EGYPTIAN CONSPIRACY'S DESTROYED, ASTRO! YOU CAN RELAX, AND GO BACK TO JAPAN NOW...
B-BUT... MISTER...
TELL ME WHO YOU ARE!!
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T REVEAL MY IDENTITY TO YOU ASTRO... JUST THINK OF ME AS A FRIEND OF ROBOTS...

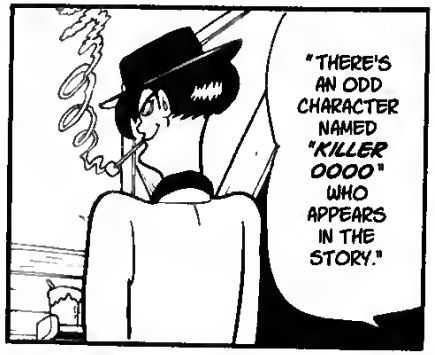
HE REMINDS ME OF MY CREATOR, DR. TENMA, BUT I CAN'T TELL WHO HE REALLY IS... I WISH I AT LEAST KNEW HIS *NAME*...
GODSPEED, ASTRO! KEEP WORKING FOR MANKIND!

THE INVISIBLE GIANT

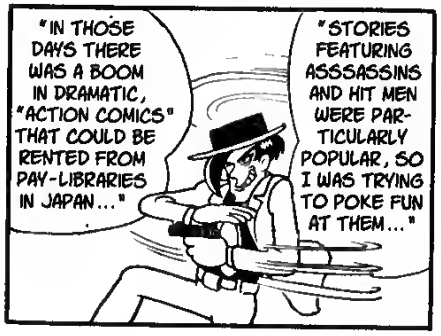
First serialized from May to July 1960 in *Shonen* magazine.

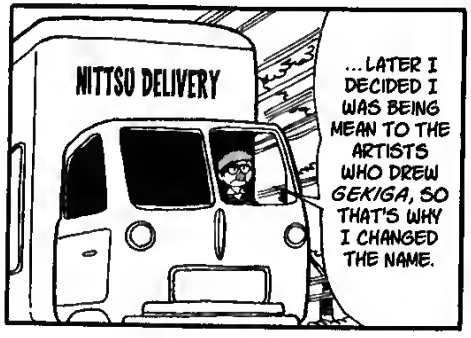

"THERE WAS A FAMOUS FRENCH SCI-FI NOVEL CALLED *THE FLY*, WHICH WAS MADE INTO A HORROR MOVIE STARRING VINCENT PRICE..."

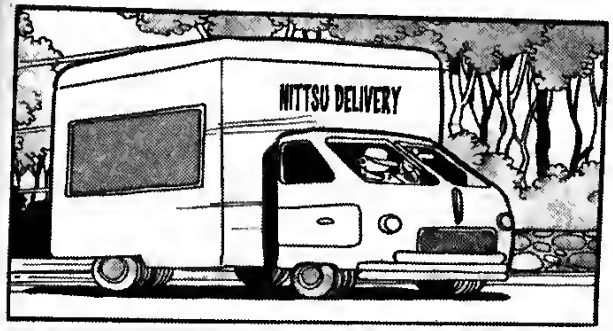

THE FOLLOWING STORY OF MINE, "THE INVISIBLE GIANT", WAS INSPIRED BY *THE FLY*.
SO I'M APOLOGIZING IN ADVANCE IF IT SEEMS SIMILAR!

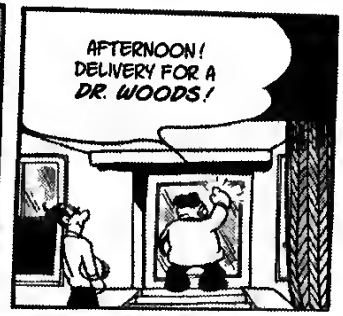

"THERE'S AN ODD CHARACTER NAMED *"KILLER OOOO"* WHO APPEARS IN THE STORY."

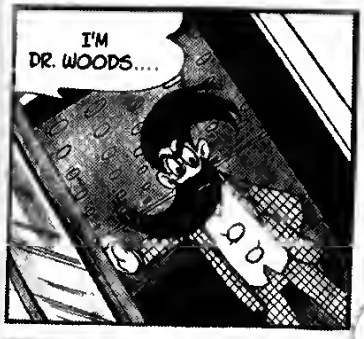
"WHEN THE STORY WAS FIRST SERIALIZED IN A MANGA MAGAZINE, HE WAS CALLED "GEKIGA KILLER," *GEKIGA* MEANING "ACTION COMICS," IN JAPANESE..."

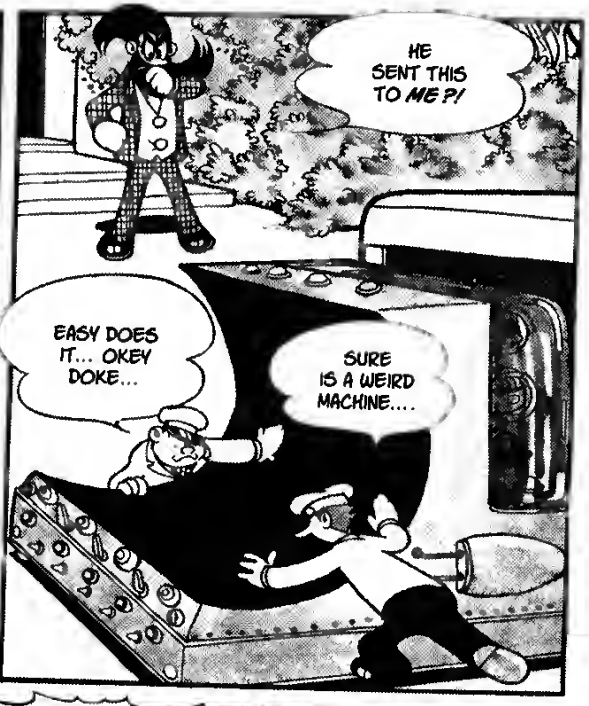

"IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS A BOOM IN DRAMATIC, "ACTION COMICS" THAT COULD BE RENTED FROM PAY-LIBRARIES IN JAPAN..."
"STORIES FEATURING ASSSASSINS AND HIT MEN WERE PARTICULARLY POPULAR, SO I WAS TRYING TO POKE FUN AT THEM..."


NITTSU DELIVERY
...LATER I DECIDED I WAS BEING MEAN TO THE ARTISTS WHO DREW *GEKIGA*, SO THAT'S WHY I CHANGED THE NAME.


NITTSU DELIVERY

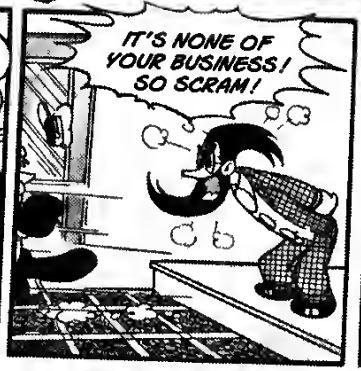

AFTERNOON! DELIVERY FOR A *DR. WOODS!*


I'M DR. WOODS....


HE SENT THIS TO *ME*?!
EASY DOES IT... OKEY DOKE...
SURE IS A WEIRD MACHINE....

IT'S FROM B. S. HANABUSA...
FROM *HANABUSA*?!

YOU'VE GOT ME WONDERING, MISTER... WHAT IS THIS THING, ANYWAY?


IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! SO SCRAM!

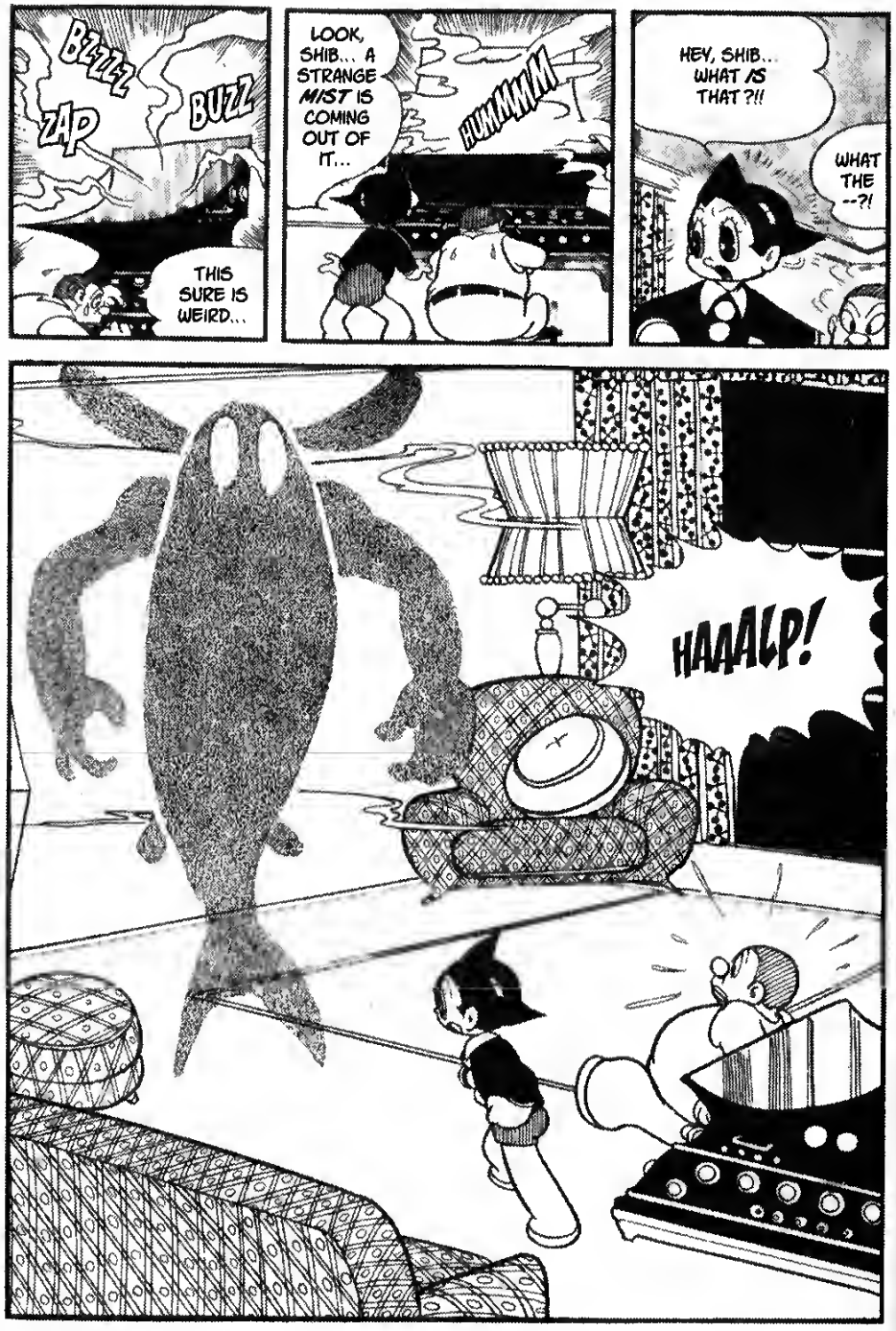
BRINGGG

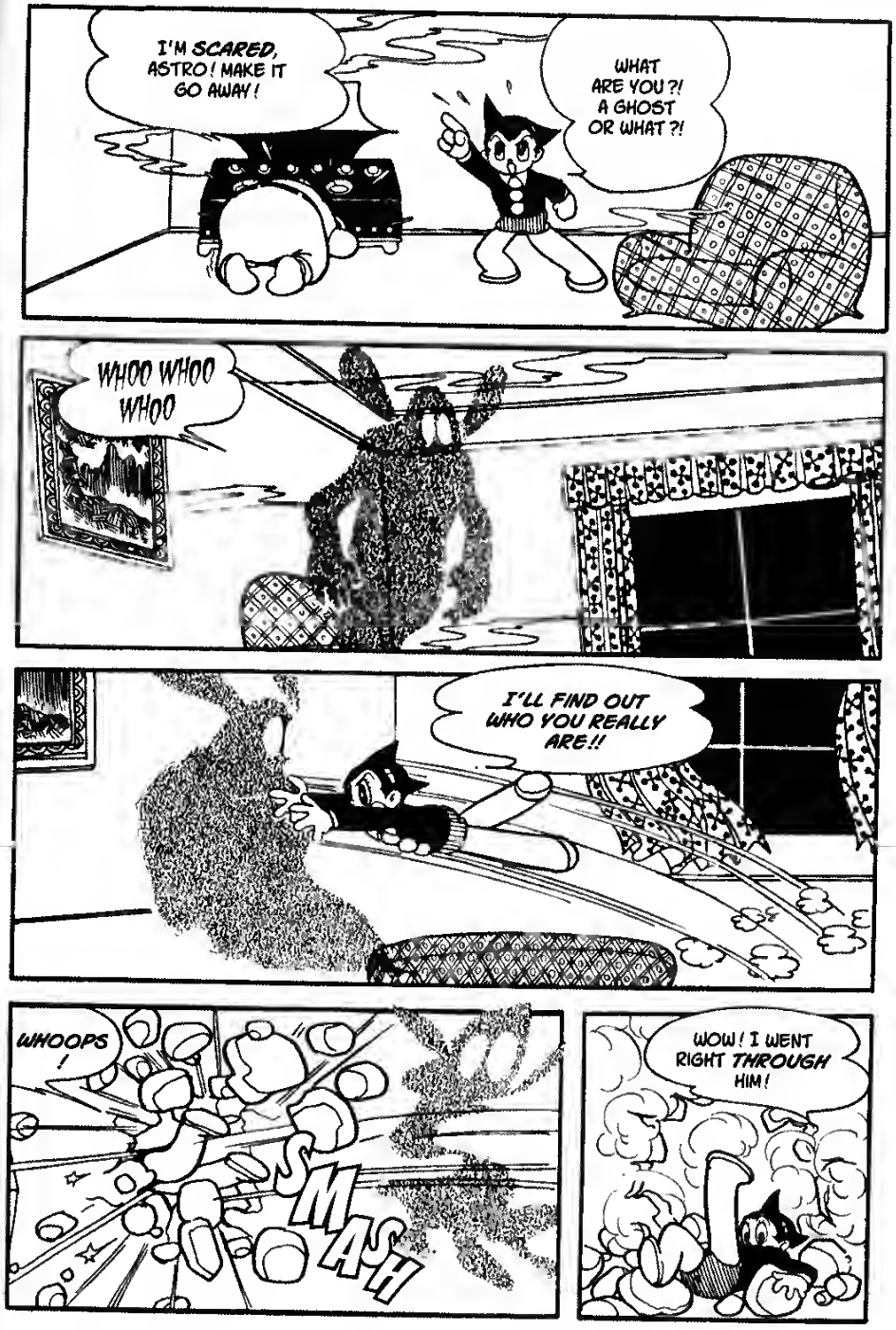
WHO IS IT? HANABUSA?!
DR. WOODS! GUESS WHAT?! I FINISHED MY RESEARCH PROJECT!
YOU KNOW, THE ONE YOU SAID I COULD NEVER DO!!
WHAT'D YOU MAKE?!
IT'S AN ELECTRONIC MATTER TRANS-PORTER!
IT BREAKS DOWN OBJECTS TO MOLECULES AND TRANSPORTS THEM OVER DISTANCES!
THE MACHINE I SENT YOU IS THE RECEIVER!
I'M GONNA RUN A TEST NOW FOR YOU...
FIRST OFF, I'LL SEND YOU MY DESK...
VUMMM VUMMM
VUMMM
IT WORKED!!

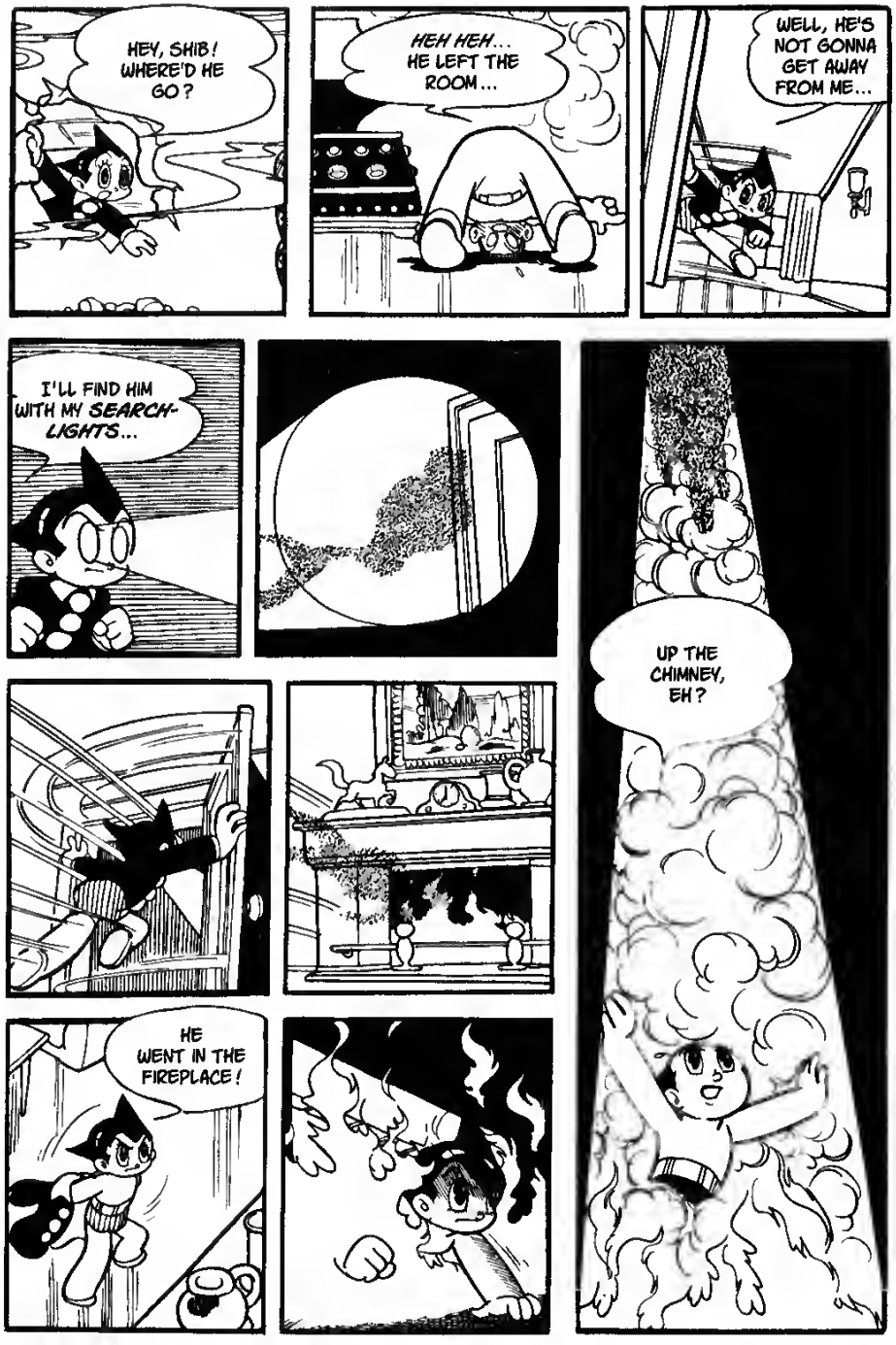
BUZZ
HUMMM
ZAP
KRASH!
THUD
HANABUSA, TH.. THIS IS INCREDIBLE!!
EVEN A BOOK ARRIVED!
W...WHAT'S THIS? THE TITLE'S REVERSED!
YOU MEAN IT'S A MIRROR IMAGE? RATS! I DUNNO WHY, BUT SOME-TIMES THE MACHINE DOES THAT...
I'LL SEND SOME ANIMALS OVER NEXT...
HOKAY...
IT TAKES LONGER TO SEND ANIMALS... I'LL START WITH A FISH...
AND THEN SEND A RABBIT...
I'LL SEND YOU A ROBOT, TOO!

... AT THE END, I'LL SEND MYSELF, AND HOPEFULLY ARRIVE OKAY... ENJOY!
OKAY...
KABOOM
I'LL MAKE SURE HE NEVER ARRIVES!!
BZZZ
HUMMM
ZAP
HA HA! I SMASHED THE RECEIVER! NOW HANABUSA WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO HIS NORMAL FORM!
HOW ABOUT IT, HANABUSA? HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE A BUNCH OF MOLECULES, PERMANENTLY FLOATING IN SPACE? HA HA HA!
MEANWHILE, AT THE FAMILY MANSION OF ASTRO'S CLASS-MATE, SHIBUGAKI...
HI, SHIB...
YO, ASTRO... COME ON IN...

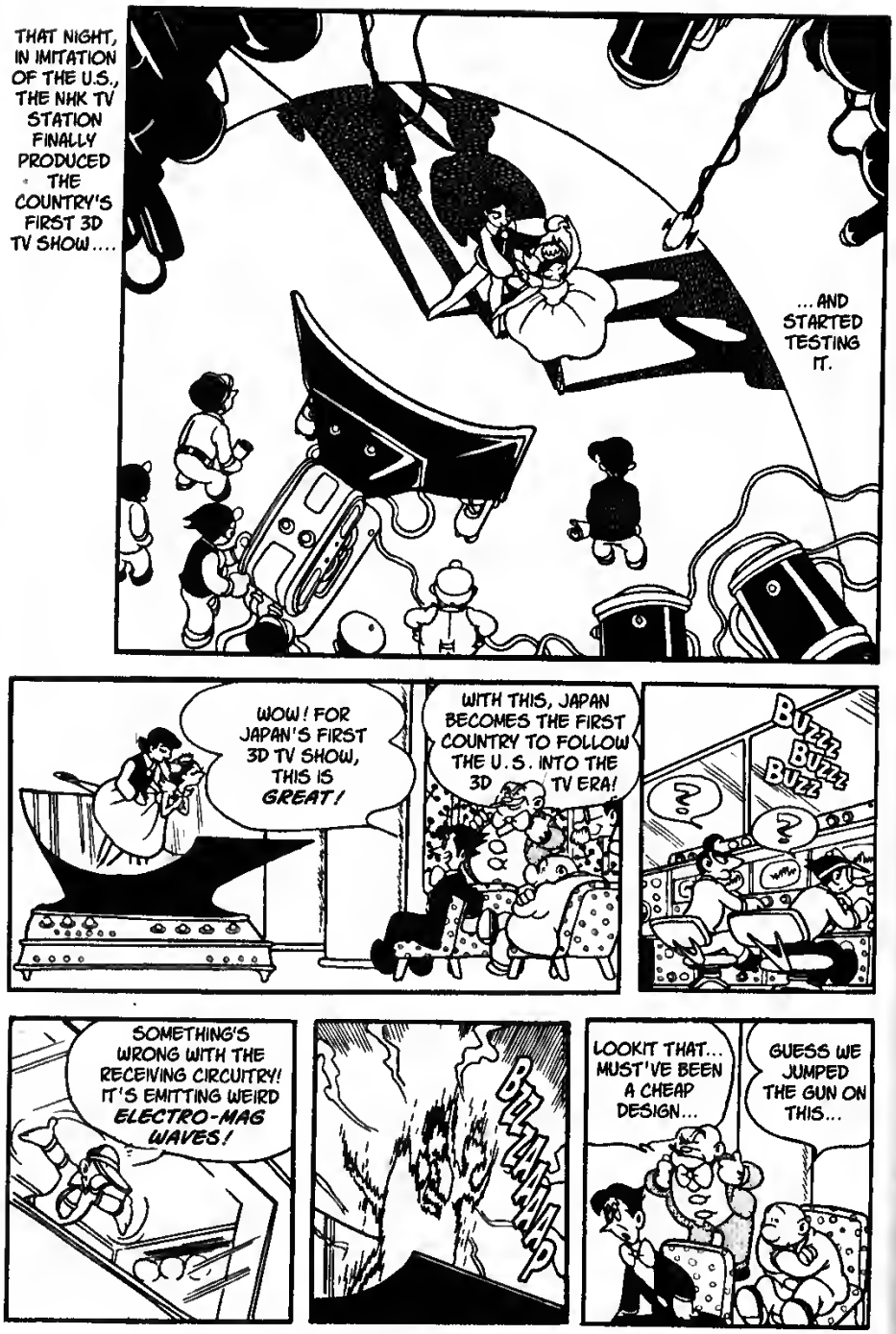
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW ME?
YUP... IT'S A 3D TV!
MY DAD BOUGHT IT IN AMERICA...
WOW... A 3D TV! DID YOU SHOW IT TO TAMAO, TOO?
NOPE. YER THE FIRST, ASTRO...
IF I LET TAMAO TOUCH THIS THING, HE'D BREAK IT FOR SURE...
HEY, I CAN SEE SOMETHING!!
BEEEP BEEEP
BUZZZ
THERE'S A WESTERN ON...
BAM BAM BAM BAM
WOW... THAT'S AMAZING. HOW COME THEY CAN'T MAKE THESE IN JAPAN?
'PROLLY TOO EXPENSIVE, NO?
FWIGGEN
UH OH... THE IMAGE IS WARPING...
HA HA! WHAT A FUNNY LOOKING HUMAN!
BLASTED THING'S OUT OF WHACK...


BZZZZ
ZAP
BUZZ
THIS SURE IS WEIRD...
LOOK, SHIB... A STRANGE MIST IS COMING OUT OF IT...
HUMMMM
HEY, SHIB... WHAT IS THAT?!!
WHAT THE --?!
HAAALP!


I'M SCARED, ASTRO! MAKE IT GO AWAY!
WHAT ARE YOU?! A GHOST OR WHAT?!
WHOO WHOO WHOO
I'LL FIND OUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE!!
WHOOPS!
SMASH
WOW! I WENT RIGHT THROUGH HIM!


HEY, SHIB! WHERE'D HE GO?
HEH HEH... HE LEFT THE ROOM...
WELL, HE'S NOT GONNA GET AWAY FROM ME...
I'LL FIND HIM WITH MY SEARCH-LIGHTS...
UP THE CHIMNEY, EH?
HE WENT IN THE FIREPLACE!

I'LL CUT HIM OFF!
...GET ABOVE HIM...
...THEN BLAST HIM DOWNWARD WITH MY JETS!
ROAR
}HACK{ MUST BE A FIRE!!
ER, SORRY, SIR...
SORRY, DAD... IT WAS CAUSED BY A GHOST...
YOU IDIOT!! }HACK{ }HACK{ WE WERE GONNA EVACUATE!
SHORTLY THEREAFTER, A SIMILAR INCIDENT OCCURRED AT THE JAPAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, AHK
NHK


THAT NIGHT, IN IMITATION OF THE U.S., THE NHK TV STATION FINALLY PRODUCED THE COUNTRY'S FIRST 3D TV SHOW....
...AND STARTED TESTING IT.
WOW! FOR JAPAN'S FIRST 3D TV SHOW, THIS IS GREAT!
WITH THIS, JAPAN BECOMES THE FIRST COUNTRY TO FOLLOW THE U.S. INTO THE 3D TV ERA!
BUZZZ BUZZZ BUZZZ
?
?
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE RECEIVING CIRCUITRY! IT'S EMITTING WEIRD ELECTRO-MAG WAVES!
BZZZAAAP
LOOKIT THAT... MUST'VE BEEN A CHEAP DESIGN...
GUESS WE JUMPED THE GUN ON THIS...

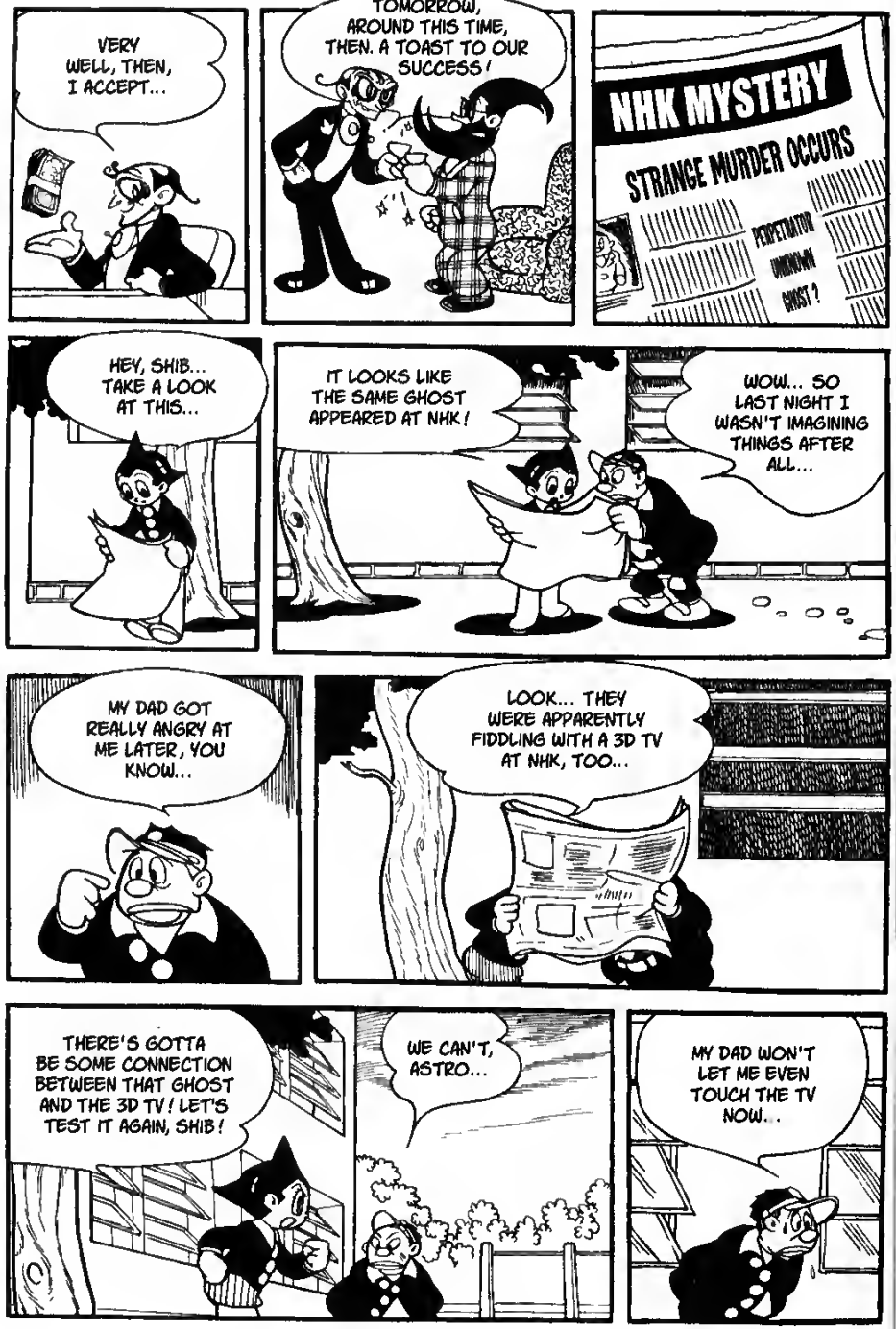
HEY, WHAT'S THIS MIST...?
LOOK... LOOK OVER THERE!
EGADS!
IT'S A GIANT APPARITION!
I NEVER KNEW THERE WERE GHOSTS IN NHK!
RUN FOR IT!
MOBILIZE ALL SECURITY, ON THE DOUBLE!
WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANY OLD GHOSTS!
YEAH, WHACK 'IM!
HAAALP!

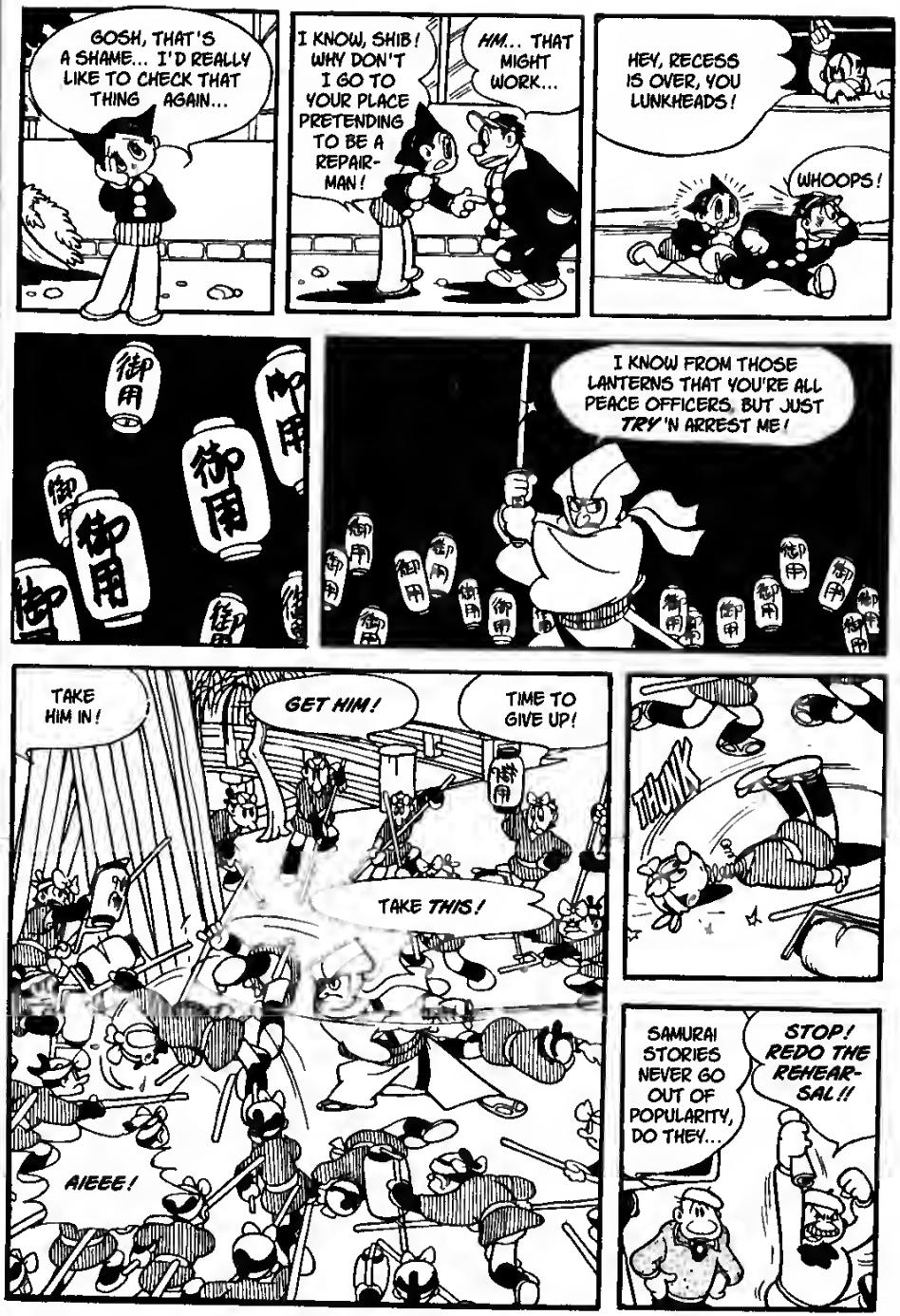
FSSSSHHH...
HE'S OVER THERE!
THERE HE IS, THERE!
HE WENT INTO THE STUDIO!
PLEASE, EVERYONE, BE QUIET! WE'RE SHOOTING THE FAMOUS YOTSUYA GHOST STORIES RIGHT NOW!
STUDIO 2
ACK! A GHOST!!
AIEE!
THUD
HELLO? WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY HERE! WE WERE SHOOTING THE CLASSIC YOTSUYA GHOST STORIES, AND THE STAR, IEMON, WAS KILLED BY A REAL GHOST!
IEMON WAS KILLED? OF COURSE HE WAS, STUPID. THAT'S WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN IN THE STORY... YOU DON'T NEED TO CALL TO TELL ME THAT...
WHAT? YOU SAY HE WAS KILLED BY A REAL GHOST?! THAT WON'T DO FOR A DRAMA!

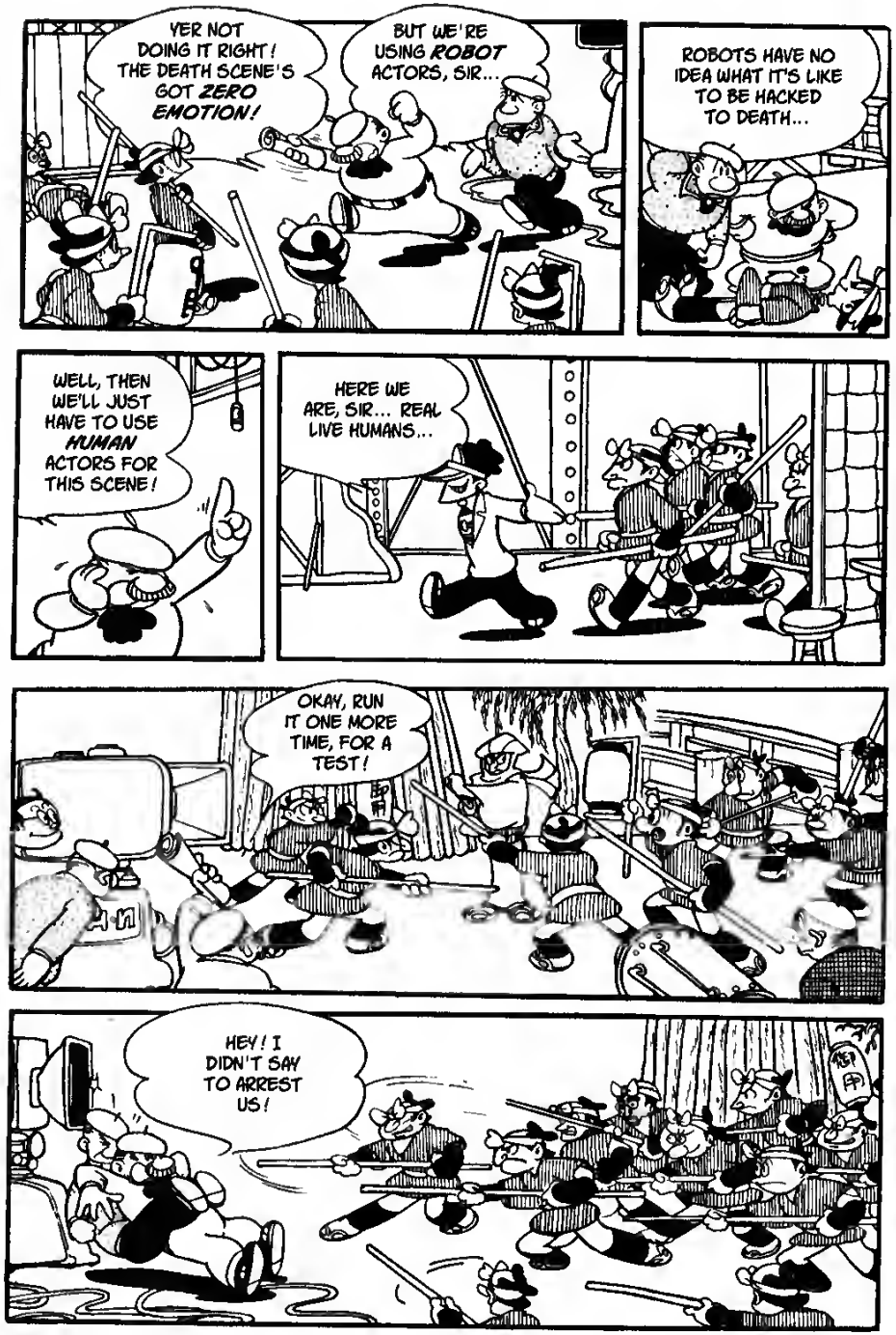
THAT STUPID IDIOT! WHO EVER HEARD OF A GHOST APPEARING AT NHK STUDIOS?!
AIEEEE!
THUNK
WHEE WHEE WHEE
FRANKLY, I GET CALLED OUT WAY TOO MUCH...
BUT TO INVESTIGATE A GHOST?!
THIS TIME ONE'S REALLY KILLING PEOPLE....
THREE PEOPLE'VE DIED, ALL AFTER SCREAMING "AIEE"!
"THREE AIEE'S"... NOW THAT'D MAKE A GOOD NAME FOR A ROCK BAND...
IT WAS DURING A TEST SHOOT FOR A 3D TV SHOW, RIGHT?
NOW HOW COULD THAT POSSIBLY BE RELATED TO A GHOST...?
WE'LL HAVE TO HAVE AUTOPSIES DONE...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
GRUMBLE

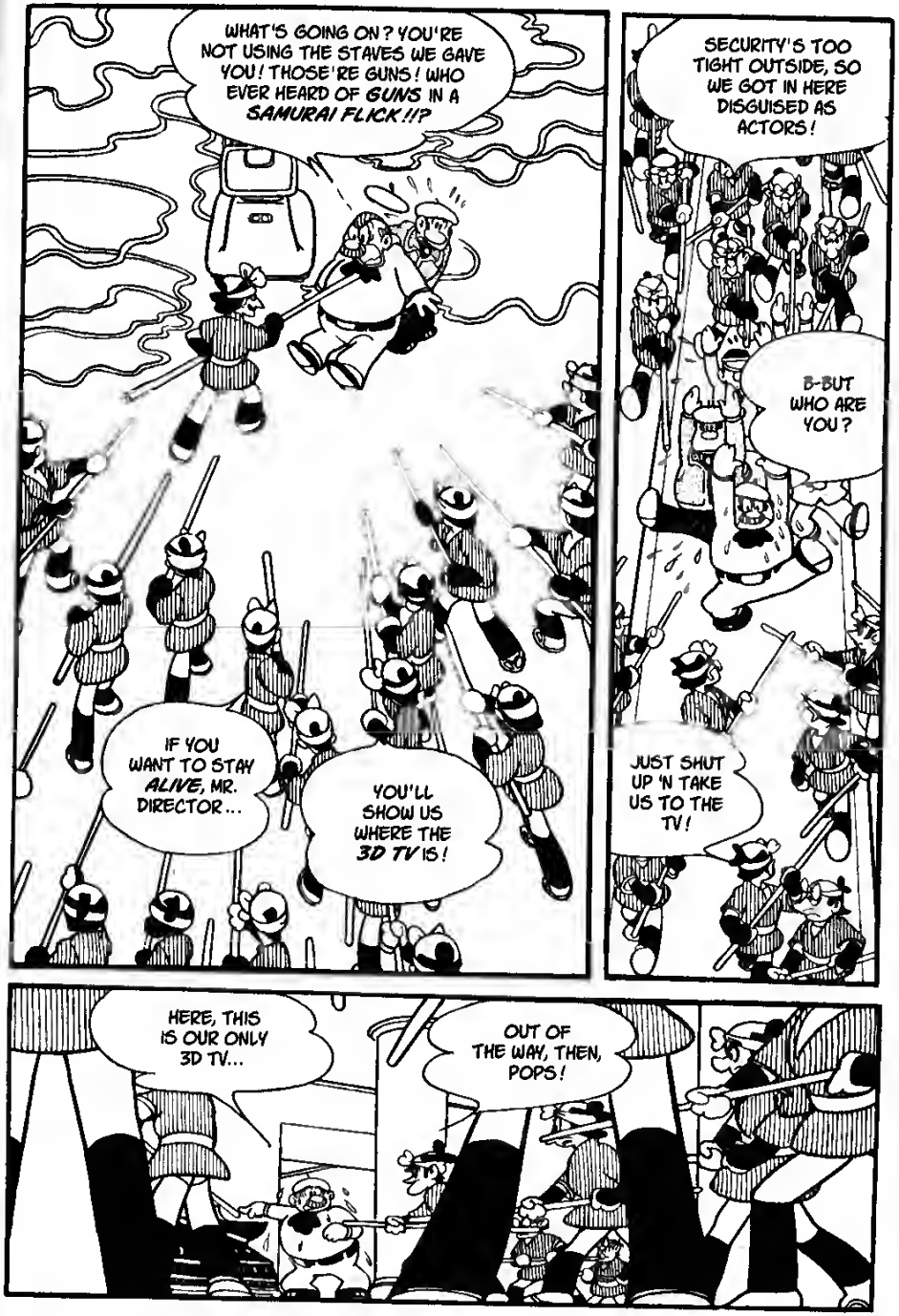
WHISPER
WHISPER
WANTED
SLAM
VROOM
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE..
GUD 4 NADA LTD.
HI, I'M DR. WOODS. I CALLED EARLIER...
WAIT JUST A MINUTE, SIR...
BOSS, THERE'S A MR. WOODS HERE TO SEE YOU...
LET HIM IN...
HAALP!

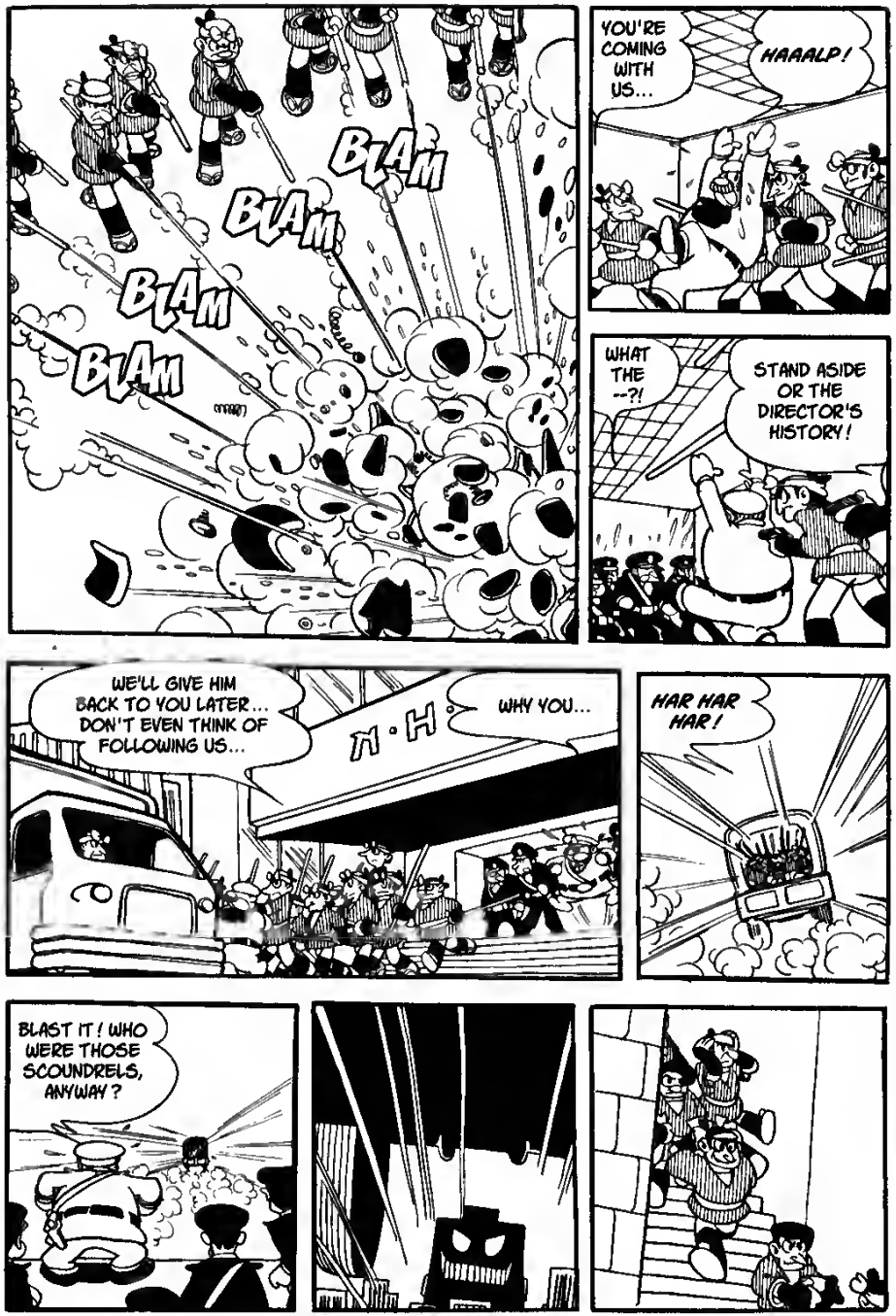
THUD
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE, DR WOODS...
FLICK
I'M NADA, THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COMPANY.
SOME WELCOME YOU GIVE...
AH, PLEASE EXCUSE US...
IN THIS LINE OF WORK, WE SOMETIMES HAVE RATHER DIFFICULT PEOPLE STOP BY...
BUT YOU'RE A FELLOW COUNTRYMAN, AND AN IMPORTANT CUSTOMER...
THAT'S WHY I CAME! I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK!
VERY WELL, STATE YOUR BUSINESS...
I WANT YOU TO DESTROY THE 3D TV AT NHK!
AND WHY MIGHT THAT BE?
I CAN'T TELL YOU!
JUST PROMISE ME YOU'LL DO IT. HERE... HERE'S SOME CASH...


VERY WELL, THEN, I ACCEPT...
TOMORROW, AROUND THIS TIME, THEN. A TOAST TO OUR SUCCESS!
NHK MYSTERY
STRANGE MURDER OCCURS
PERPETRATOR UNKNOWN
GHOST?
HEY, SHIB... TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SAME GHOST APPEARED AT NHK!
WOW... SO LAST NIGHT I WASN'T IMAGINING THINGS AFTER ALL...
MY DAD GOT REALLY ANGRY AT ME LATER, YOU KNOW...
LOOK... THEY WERE APPARENTLY FIDDLING WITH A 3D TV AT NHK, TOO...
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT GHOST AND THE 3D TV! LET'S TEST IT AGAIN, SHIB!
WE CAN'T, ASTRO...
MY DAD WON'T LET ME EVEN TOUCH THE TV NOW...


GOSH, THAT'S A SHAME... I'D REALLY LIKE TO CHECK THAT THING AGAIN...
I KNOW, SHIB! WHY DON'T I GO TO YOUR PLACE PRETENDING TO BE A REPAIR-MAN!
HM... THAT MIGHT WORK...
HEY, RECESS IS OVER, YOU LUNKHEADS!
WHOOPS!
御用
I KNOW FROM THOSE LANTERNS THAT YOU'RE ALL PEACE OFFICERS, BUT JUST TRY 'N ARREST ME!
TAKE HIM IN!
GET HIM!
TIME TO GIVE UP!
TAKE THIS!
AIEEE!
THUNK
SAMURAI STORIES NEVER GO OUT OF POPULARITY, DO THEY...
STOP! REDO THE REHEAR-SAL!!


YER NOT DOING IT RIGHT! THE DEATH SCENE'S GOT ZERO EMOTION!
BUT WE'RE USING ROBOT ACTORS, SIR...
ROBOTS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE HACKED TO DEATH...
WELL, THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO USE HUMAN ACTORS FOR THIS SCENE!
HERE WE ARE, SIR... REAL LIVE HUMANS...
OKAY, RUN IT ONE MORE TIME, FOR A TEST!
HEY! I DIDN'T SAY TO ARREST US!

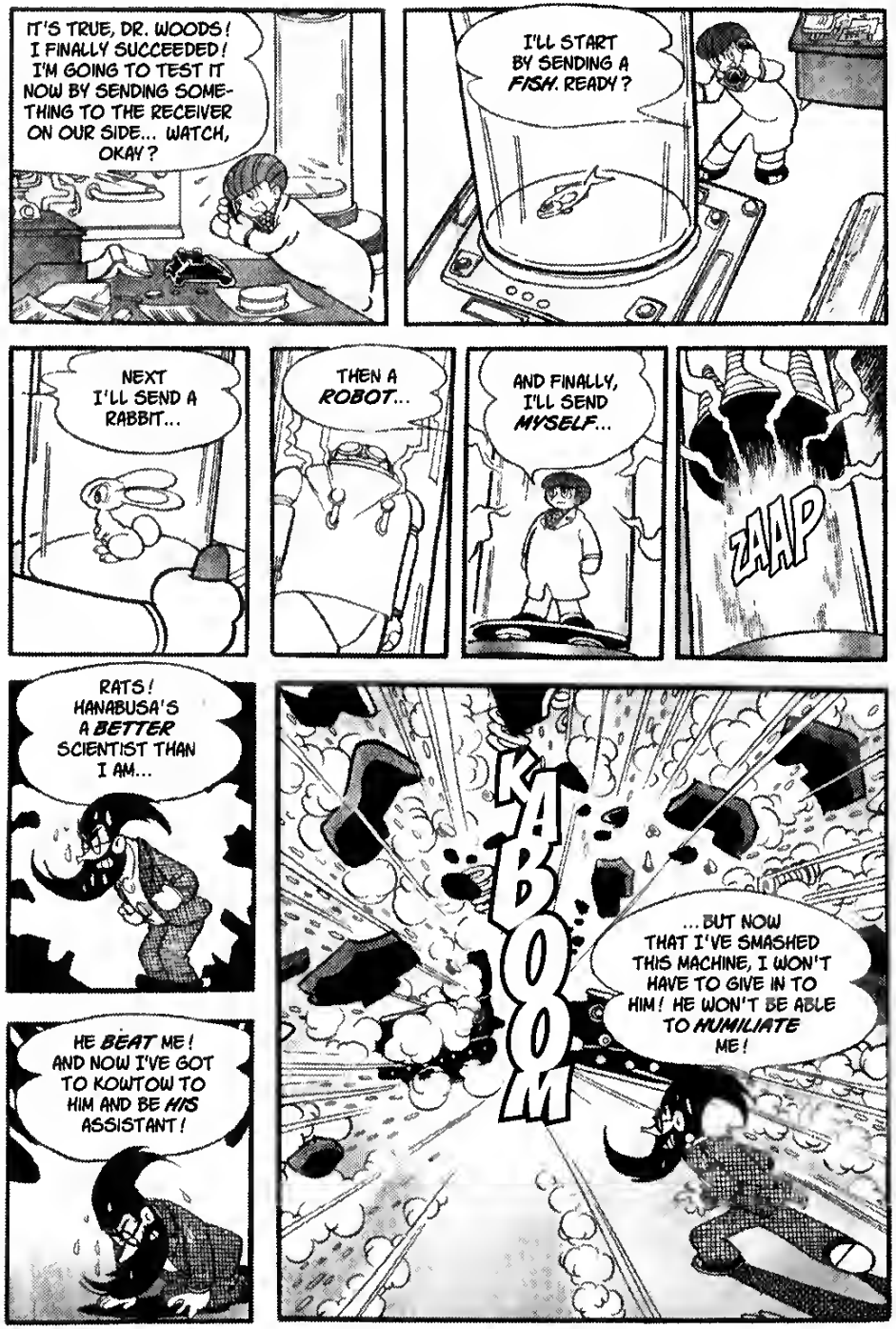

WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'RE NOT USING THE STAVES WE GAVE YOU! THOSE 'RE GUNS! WHO EVER HEARD OF GUNS IN A SAMURAI FLICK!!?
IF YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE, MR. DIRECTOR...
YOU'LL SHOW US WHERE THE 3D TV IS!
SECURITY'S TOO TIGHT OUTSIDE, SO WE GOT IN HERE DISGUISED AS ACTORS!
B-BUT WHO ARE YOU?
JUST SHUT UP 'N TAKE US TO THE TV!
HERE, THIS IS OUR ONLY 3D TV...
OUT OF THE WAY, THEN, POPS!


BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
YOU'RE COMING WITH US...
HAAALP!
WHAT THE --?!
STAND ASIDE OR THE DIRECTOR'S HISTORY!
WE'LL GIVE HIM BACK TO YOU LATER... DON'T EVEN THINK OF FOLLOWING US...
WHY YOU...
HAR HAR HAR!
BLAST IT! WHO WERE THOSE SCOUNDRELS, ANYWAY?

MISSION ACOMPLISHED, BOSS...
WELL DONE, WELL DONE...
THAT COMPLETES MY SIDE OF THE BARGAIN, DR. WOODS.
INDEED ...
BUT TELL ME, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T TELL YOU!
BUT THE JOB'S OVER... WHAT'S WRONG WITH TELLING ME NOW?
I READ THE NEWSPAPER...
...WITH THE ARTICLE ABOUT A "GHOST" ...
DON'T BOTHER TO ASK ME! I'LL NEVER TELL YOU!
HEY! WHAADYA THINK YOUR DOING?!
ULP!
SORRY TA DO THIS TO YOU...
WAIT! STOP!
FWAP
FWOP
FWAP
SMACK
FWAP

STILL WON'T TALK, EH? WORK ON HIM A LITTLE MORE, BOYS...
BEING STUBBORN WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE, PAL...
STOP! I'LL TALK! I'LL SAY ANYTHING!
AH, THINK OF THE PAIN YOU COULD'VE AVOIDED, DR. WOODS...
THE... THE GHOST IS A MAN WHO USED TO BE MY ASSISTANT...
"HIS NAME WAS B.S. HANABUSA... HE WAS YOUNG, BUT A REAL GENIUS..."

"WE WERE DOING RESEARCH ON AN ELECTRONIC MATTER TRANSPORTER--A MACHINE THAT REDUCES OBJECTS TO MOLECULES AND THEN ELECTRONICALLY TRANSPORTS THEM TO A RECEIVER AT DIFFERENT LOCATION, WHERE THEY'RE RECOMBINED."
"AFTER YEARS OF TRYING, WE STILL HAD NO SUCCESS..."
I QUIT!!
IT'LL NEVER BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE AN ELECTRONIC MATTER TRANSPORTER!
NO, WE CAN DO IT, DR. WOODS!
CANNOT!
CAN, TOO! I'LL SHOW YOU!
HMPH! WELL, IF YOU DO...
...I'LL BOW DOWN BEFORE YOU, AND BE YOUR ASSISTANT!
HA HA HA HA!
"THEN, ONE DAY THREE YEARS LATER..."
BRRRING
YOU WHAT?! YOU MADE AN ELECTRONIC MATTER TRANSPORTER?!


IT'S TRUE, DR. WOODS! I FINALLY SUCCEEDED! I'M GOING TO TEST IT NOW BY SENDING SOMETHING TO THE RECEIVER ON OUR SIDE... WATCH, OKAY?
I'LL START BY SENDING A *FISH*. READY?
NEXT I'LL SEND A RABBIT...
THEN A *ROBOT*...
AND FINALLY, I'LL SEND *MYSELF*...
ZAAP
RATS! HANABUSA'S A *BETTER* SCIENTIST THAN I AM...
KABOOM
...BUT NOW THAT I'VE SMASHED THIS MACHINE, I WON'T HAVE TO GIVE IN TO HIM! HE WON'T BE ABLE TO *HUMILIATE* ME!
HE *BEAT* ME! AND NOW I'VE GOT TO KOWTOW TO HIM AND BE *HIS* ASSISTANT!

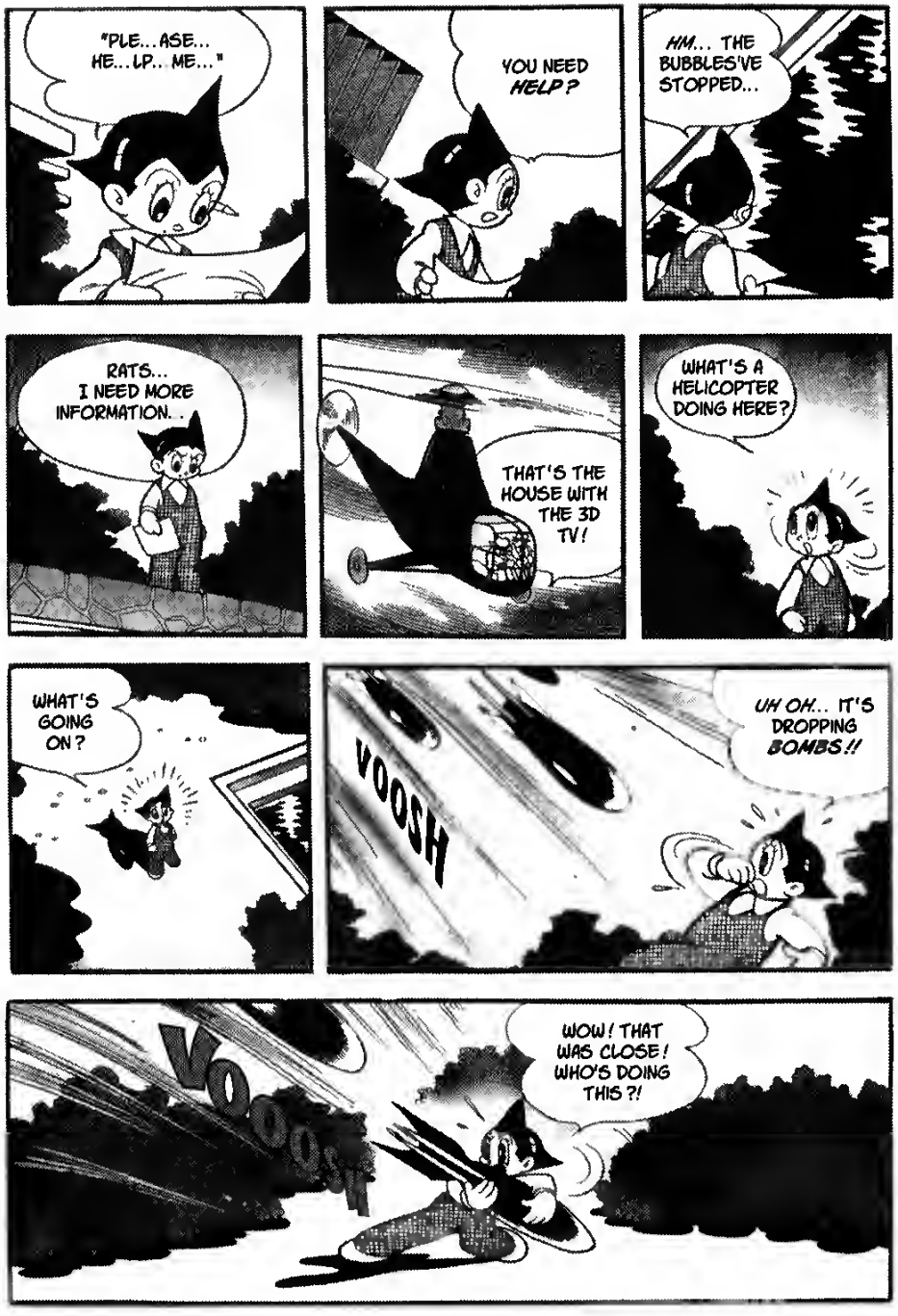
HOW ABOUT IT, HANABUSA? HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE A BUNCH OF MOLECULES, PERMANENTLY FLOATING IN SPACE? *HA HA HA!*
...EVER SINCE THEN, HANABUSA'S BEEN ADRIFT IN SPACE, LIKE THE MIST...
HMM... BUT WHY WOULD HE APPEAR IN FRONT OF A 3D TV?
3D TVS HAVE A LOT IN COMMON WITH THE DESIGN OF ELECTRONIC MATTER TRANSPORTERS...
SO THAT'S WHY A MIST-LIKE FORM APPEARS IN FRONT OF THEM...?
RIGHT...
BUT 3D TVS ARE A LOT SIMPLER THAN ELECTRONIC MATTER TRANSPORTERS...
...SO HANABUSA WAS NEVER ABLE TO FULLY RETURN TO HIS NORMAL SELF...
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE ONLY SEE A FUZZY OUT-LINE OF HIM ...
BUT THE PAPER SAYS HE DIDN'T EVEN LOOK HUMAN!
DON'T FORGET, HANABUSA'S NOT THE *ONLY* ONE FLOATING AROUND IN SPACE...THERE'S ALL THOSE MOLECULES FROM THE ROBOT, RABBIT, AND THE FISH, TOO...

IN FACT, ALL OF THOSE THINGS ARE APPEARING, MIXED TOGETHER...
HMM... THAT'S QUITE A STORY..
IT'S VERY INTERESTING, AND NOW I'VE MADE UP MY MIND...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
RRIINNG
RIGHT, IT'S ME... WHAT? YOU FOUND ANOTHER 3D TV IN JAPAN?
WELL, DR. WOODS... THERE'S APPARENTLY ANOTHER 3D TV SOMEWHERE IN A JAPAN, OWNED BY A JAPANESE FAMILY...
WHAT?!
I TOLD MY MEN TO STEAL IT WITHOUT BREAKING IT, BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE THE GHOST APPEAR MYSELF...
NO! YOU MUSTN'T! YOU'VE GOT TO DESTROY IT!!
UM... 'SCUSE ME, MA'AM... I'M THE ELECTRONICS REPAIRMAN...
WELL, WHAT A CUTE REPAIRMAN YOU ARE...
I'M THE REAL THING, MA'AM...
WELL, COME ON IN... MY SON WAS HOPING YOU'D COME LOOK AT OUR TV...
I'LL GET RIGHT TO WORK...

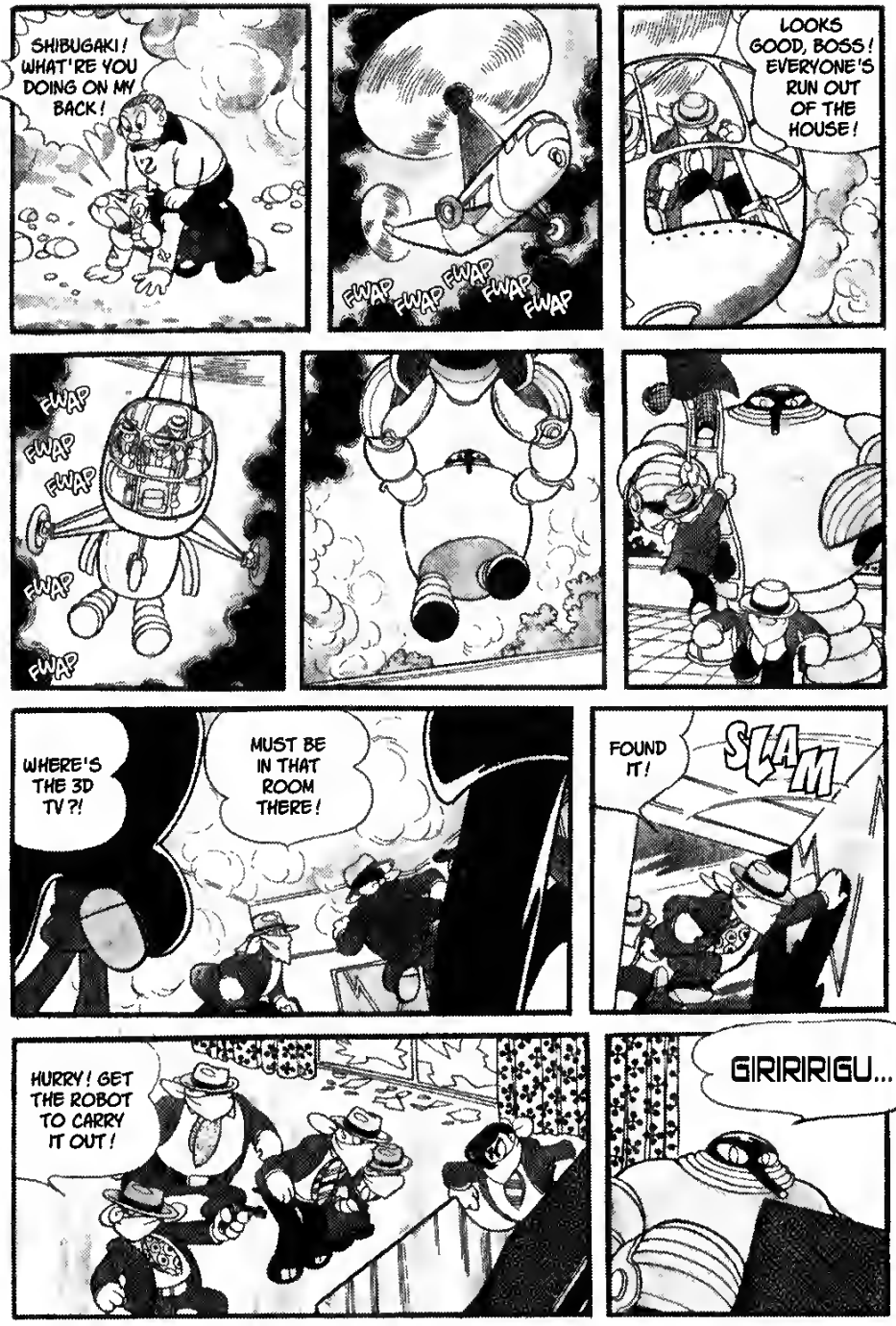
THE REPAIRMAN'S HERE TO LOOK AT THE 3D TV, SON...
OKAY! SH...!
HMM, NO PROBLEM WITH THE FUSES...
IT'S IN THIS ROOM, RIGHT...?
THIS MACHINE'S GOT TO BE THE CAUSE OF IT ALL.
HEY, ASTRO... ENOUGH ACTING...
LISTEN, SHIB.. THIS IS DANGEROUS... YOU'D BETTER HIDE SOMEWHERE!
HIDE? I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANY OL' GHOST!
IT'S MONSTERS THAT SCARE THE HECK OUT OF ME...
PEEP BEEP PEEEP
I'LL TRY TURNING IT ON...
BZZZZZZ
I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL...
HERE IT COMES...
PEEP BEEP BUZZ SCREEE
CLUNK CLUNK CRASH

HERE IT COMES!
BZZZZZT
HSSSSS...
I CAN SEE IT NOW...
OKAY, GHOST! TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN FRONT OF THIS 3D TV?!
HSSSSSS...
I SEE YOU'VE GOT A DIFFERENT SHAPE TODAY...
GHOSTS CAN SCARE HUMANS, BUT YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KILL THEM, UNDERSTAND?!
IF YOU CAN TALK, TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON...
I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU, SO SPEAK!
HSSSS... HSSSH...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAN'T SAY ANYTHING?

HM... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING...
GOING OUT IN THE GARDEN, EH?
WHA? HE JUMPED IN THE WATER?
THIS SURE IS WEIRD... MAYBE THIS IS HIS HIDEOUT?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING BUT BUBBLES...
BLUB BLUB BLIP
WAIT A MINUTE! I GET IT...
THE GHOST IS SIGNALING ME!
IT'S MORSE CODE!
HE CAN'T TALK, SO HE'S TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH BUBBLES!
BUBBLE BUBBLE BLIP


"PLE...ASE... HE...LP.. ME..."
YOU NEED HELP?
HM... THE BUBBLES'VE STOPPED...
RATS... I NEED MORE INFORMATION..
THAT'S THE HOUSE WITH THE 3D TV!
WHAT'S A HELICOPTER DOING HERE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
VOOSH
UH OH... IT'S DROPPING BOMBS!!
VOOOSH
WOW! THAT WAS CLOSE! WHO'S DOING THIS?!

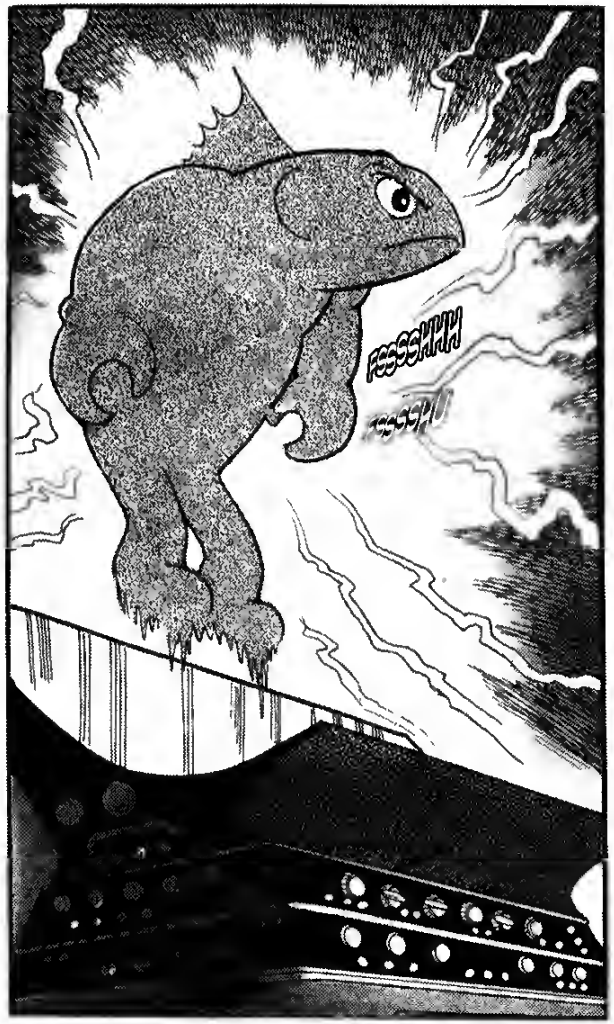
STILL MORE!
UH OH...
BOOOM
WHAT WAS THAT? THINK A FIREWORKS FACTORY BLEW UP?
IT'S A BOMB, SIR! A BOMB LANDED IN THE GARDEN!
WE'RE GOT TO RUN OUTSIDE, SIR!
BUT LOOK AT THE FLAMES OUTSIDE!
IT'S BETTER THAN STAYING HERE!
CRASH
BAM BAM BAM
KATHUNK
OWW...!

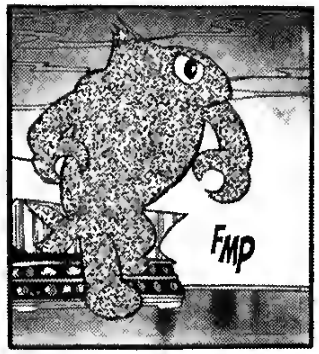

SHIBUGAKI! WHAT'RE YOU DOING ON MY BACK!
FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP
LOOKS GOOD, BOSS! EVERYONE'S RUN OUT OF THE HOUSE!
FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP
WHERE'S THE 3D TV?!
MUST BE IN THAT ROOM THERE!
FOUND IT!
SLAM
HURRY! GET THE ROBOT TO CARRY IT OUT!
GIRIRIRIGU...

BRING IT OVER HERE!
LOAD IT IN THE COPTER!
WE DID IT! NOW WE MAKE LIKE FIREMEN AND ESCAPE!
WHEE WHEEE WHEEE
UH OH... THE COPTER TOOK OFF!
NOT SO FAST!
CHUNK

CHASE IS BAD! CHASE IS BAD!
HEY! YOU'RE WORKING FOR THEM! LEMME GO!
YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL RIGHT FROM WRONG!
BUT IF YOU JUST DON'T GET IT...
SMASH
DON'T BLAME ME...
NOW TO SET MY HEARING TO 1000X...
I HEAR COPTER PROPS OVER THERE...

THIS MUST BE THE COPTER...
UH OH...
THE 3D TV'S HERE, BOSS...
WELL, DONE...
PLEASE...YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS! IF THAT MONSTER GETS OUT HE'LL KILL ME!
HEH HEH... BUT THINK HOW MUCH FUN IT'LL BE TO TRY THIS OUT...
PLEASE! STOP IT!
AH, SHADDUP!
IT'S MY 3D TV NOW!! AND I'LL DO WITH IT AS I PLEASE!
NO! STOP!!
YOU'VE GOTTA TURN IT OFF, OR THE MONSTER WILL... ARGH!!!
HERE HE COMES!!
EGADS!


FSSSHHH
FSSSHHH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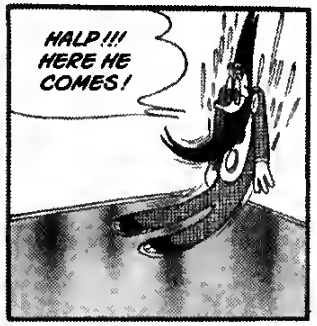
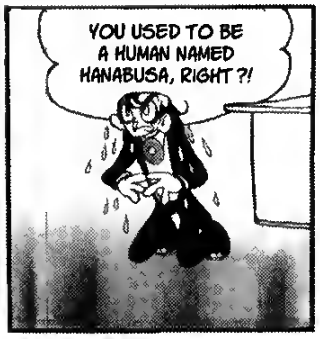

HALP!!! HERE HE COMES!

GRAAAR!

WAIT! STOP! LISTEN TO ME!

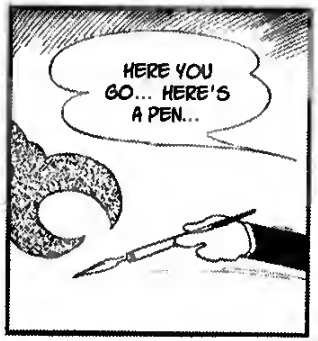

YOU USED TO BE A HUMAN NAMED HANABUSA, RIGHT?!

YOU UNDER-STAND ME, DON'T YOU...

NOW, YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A FUZZY GHOST FOR THE REST OF TIME, RIGHT? THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN USING THIS MACHINE, TO TRY TO GET YOU TO COME OUT.... AND IN RETURN I WANT YOU TO DO AS I SAY!
SKO SHU...

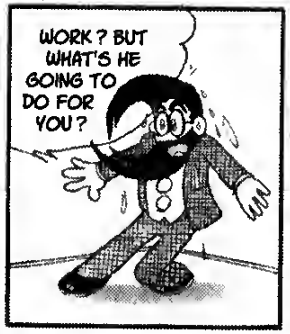
SUGOH!

JUST SIGN THIS CONTRACT HERE, SAYING "I AGREE TO WORK FOR GUD 4 ADA LTD."


HERE YOU GO... HERE'S A PEN...

HOOOOOO

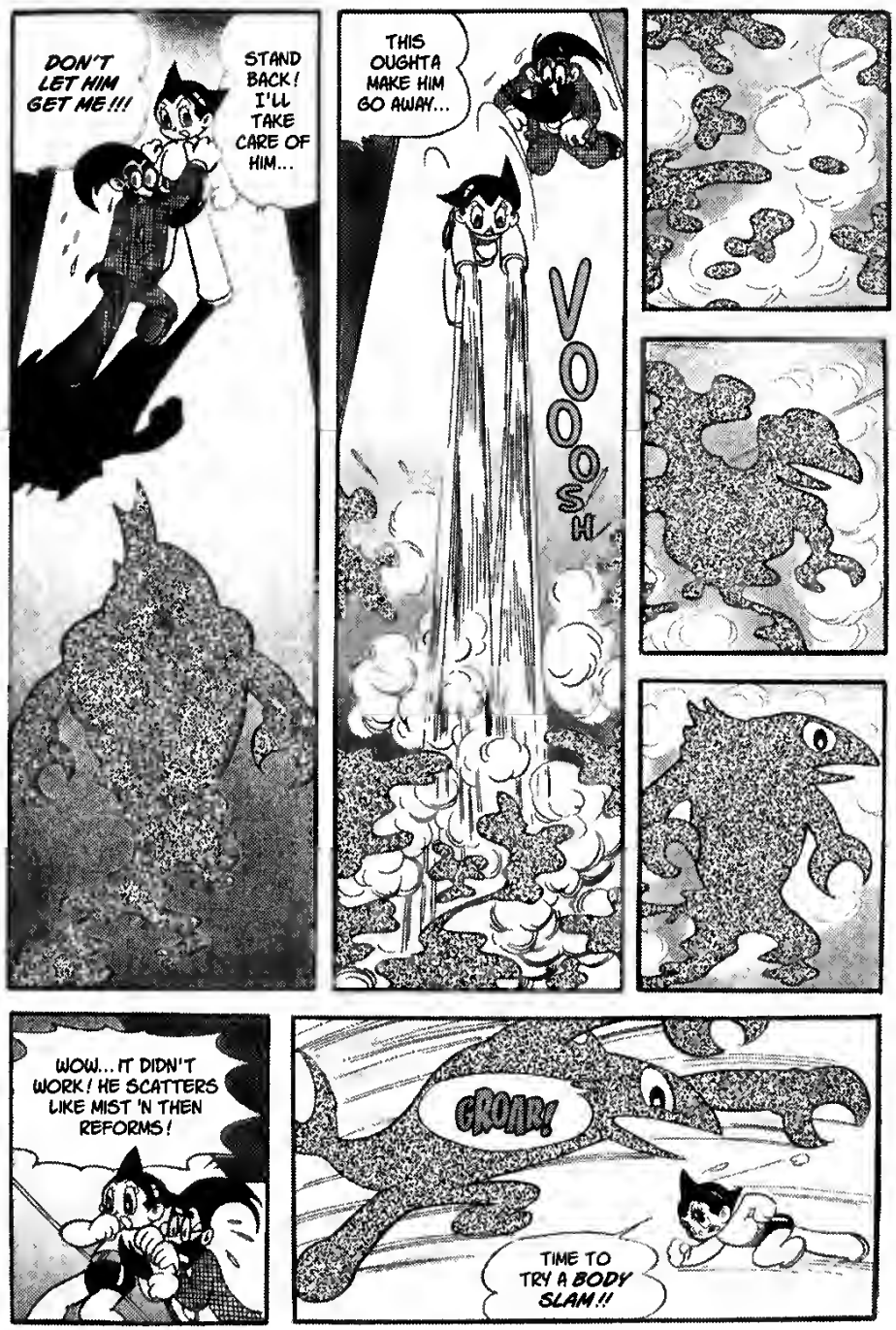
HOW 'BOUT THAT!? YOU CAN EVEN WRITE!


WORK? BUT WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO FOR YOU?

AND NOW, FOR MY FIRST COMMAND...

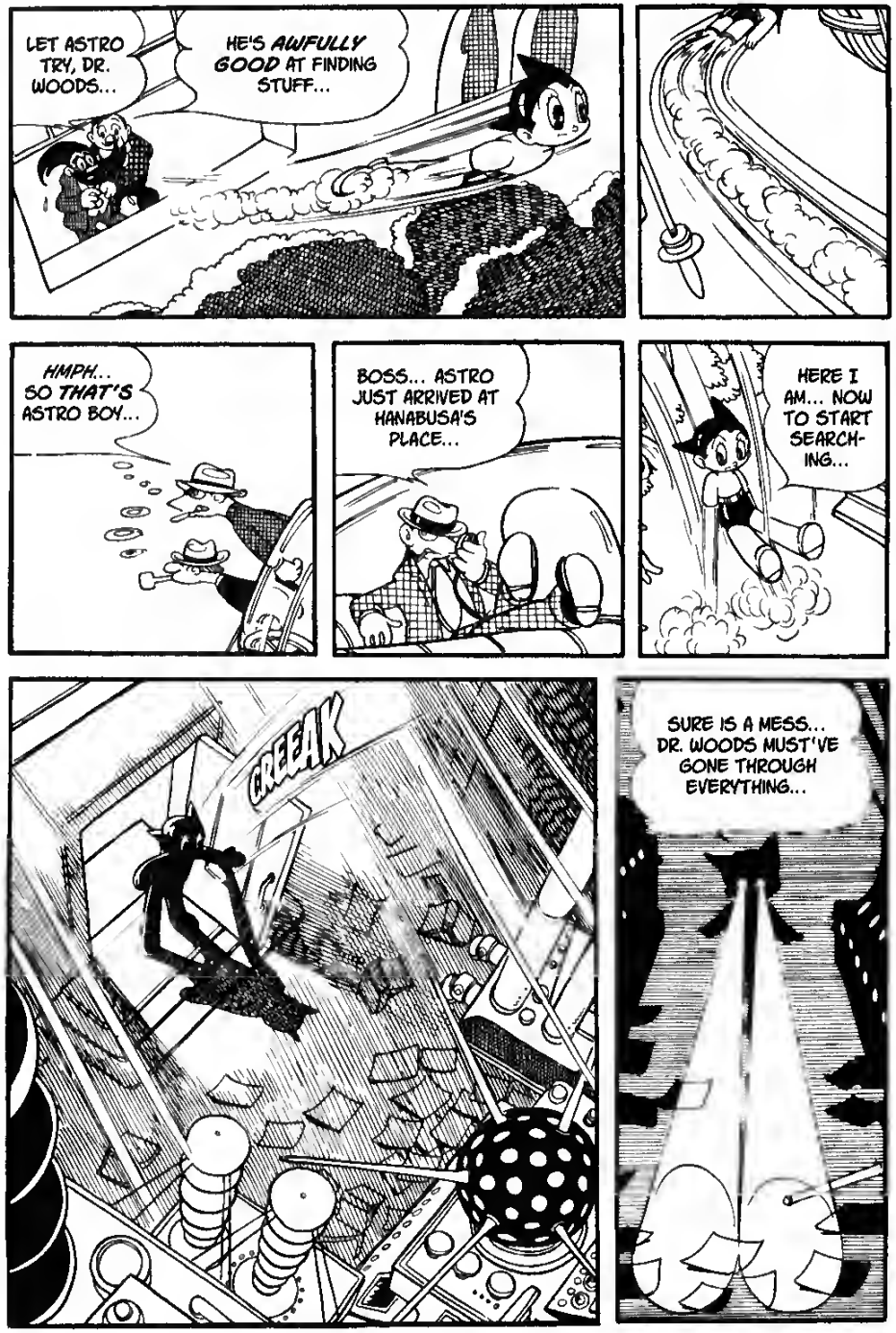
...KILL THAT MAN THERE!
WHAT?!

YOU KNOW THE MONSTER'S SECRET, DR. WOODS... SO I CAN'T LET YOU LIVE... HEH HEH...
NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! HANABUSA! FORGIVE ME!!
KABAM
TIME TO SCRAM!
TA-TA-TA-TA!
SLAM
WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE...
UH OH...
HALP!!
HELP ME! PLEASE! I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT HELP!!


DON'T LET HIM GET ME!!!
STAND BACK! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM...
THIS OUGHTA MAKE HIM GO AWAY...
VOOSH
WOW... IT DIDN'T WORK! HE SCATTERS LIKE MIST 'N THEN REFORMS!
GRONK!
TIME TO TRY A BODY SLAM!!

YIKES! THIS GUY'S STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT!
SCCH!!
KA-BAM
CRASH
ACK! MY HEAD'S TURNED AROUND!
SURE IS POWERFUL FOR SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE MIST!
HACK HACK! HALP! HE'S KILLING ME!!
VOOOSH
DR. WOODS! GRAB ONTO ME!!

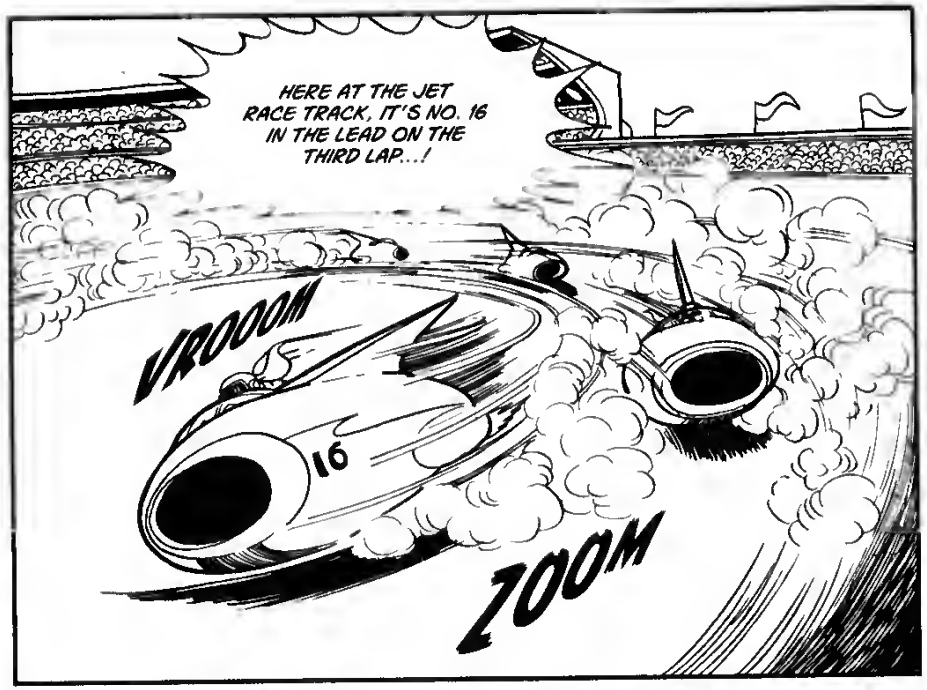
THAT'S ENOUGH OF TRYING TO TAKE HIM ON!!
I'D SAY A REAL MONSTER'S BEEN UNLEASHED!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT....
IT'S BECAUSE I SMASHED THE TRANSPORTER IN A FIT OF RAGE...
MAYBE IF YOU APOLOGIZED TO THE MONSTER, HE'D FORGIVE YOU, DR. WOODS...
I DOUBT IT... WITH THE TRANSPORTER DESTROYED, HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO HUMAN FORM...
BUT MAYBE HANABUSA HAD BLUEPRINTS FOR THE MACHINE IN HIS HOUSE...
I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT AND SEARCHED HIS PLACE, BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING...
YOU NEVER KNOW, DR. WOODS... MAYBE I COULD FIND SOMETHING...


LET ASTRO TRY, DR. WOODS...
HE'S AWFULLY GOOD AT FINDING STUFF...
HMPH... SO THAT'S ASTRO BOY...
BOSS... ASTRO JUST ARRIVED AT HANABUSA'S PLACE...
HERE I AM... NOW TO START SEARCHING...
CREEAK
SURE IS A MESS... DR. WOODS MUST'VE GONE THROUGH EVERYTHING...

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING, EITHER... BUT WAIT A SEC...
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THAT SIGN ON THE WALL...
OPEN FLAMES NOT PROHIBITED
IN A LAB IT'D NORMALLY SAY, "OPEN FLAMES PROHIBITED."
SO WHY DOES IT SAY, "OPEN FLAMES NOT PROHIBITED"?
I GET IT! IT'S HEAT-SENSITIVE, INVISIBLE INK!
OPEN FLAMES NOT PROHIBITED
IT'S THE BLUEPRINTS DISGUISED AS A SIGN ON THE WALL!
OPEN FLAMES NOT PROHIBITED
WHAT THE—
VOOOSH
WHO'S DOING THIS?!
OPEN FLAMES NOT PROHIBITED
ROAR
I BETTER HIDE THE BLUEPRINTS! SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO BURN THEM!
RIGHT... WE'RE GONNA FRY BOTH OF YOU!
WOOSH
WOOSH

VOOOSH
I FEEL REAL TOASTY...
AND NOW IT'S MY TURN...
FWAP
AIEEE!
ACK!
POIK
HA HA... JUST A LITTLE TAP AND THEY'RE OUT LIKE LIGHTS... FOR BAD GUYS, THESE GUYS ARE PRETTY WIMPY...
FLAME-THROWERS NEXT...
THEY'LL NEVER USE THESE AGAIN...
TWIST
WHAT?!! YOU IDIOTS LET ASTRO BOY GET AWAY WITH THE BLUEPRINTS?!

ASTRO BOY'S A ROBOT... SO MAYBE I NEED A HIT MAN WHO SPECIALIZES IN ROBOTS...
VERY WELL, OOOO, THE ROBOT'S NAME IS "ASTRO BOY."
WELL, WELL, WELL... THANKS FOR COMING... I'VE GOT A ROBOT FOR YOU TO GET RID OF, SIR...
JUST CALL ME "OOOO," THE PROFESSIONAL KILLER...
ER... DID YOU SAY... ASTRO BOY?!
NOW WE'RE TALKING! I'LL DO IT TONIGHT...
Killer
I CAN'T WAIT! WATCH OUT, THOUGH... HE'S ONE HECK OF A ROBOT...
SLAM
THIS'LL GET RID OF BOTH THE BLUEPRINTS AND ASTRO!
THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO RELAX AND CONCENTRATE ON MY WORK.
SO, HANABUSA... HOW ARE YOU TODAY? I'VE GOT ANOTHER JOB FOR YOU...
THE ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE... GOOD LUCK!

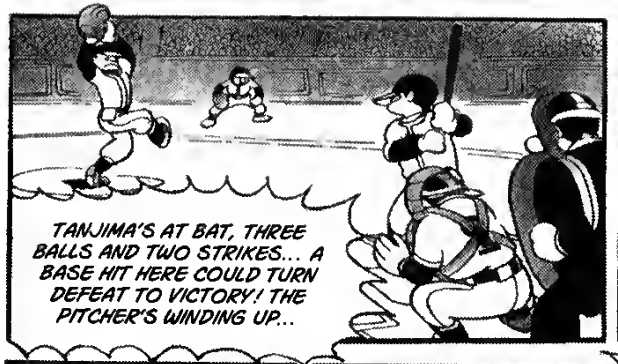

HERE AT THE JET RACE TRACK, IT'S NO. 16 IN THE LEAD ON THE THIRD LAP...!
VROOOM
16
ZOOM

≥ACK≤... I FEEL LIKE I'M CHOKING...

SCREECH!
KABASH
16

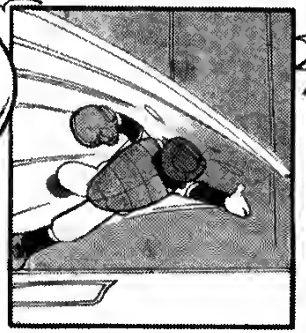
≥HACK≤... I CAN HARDLY BREATHE!

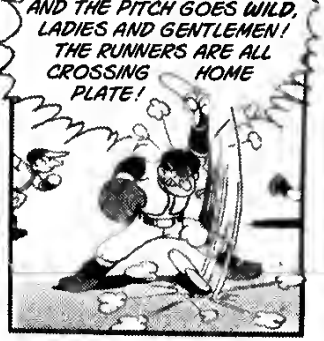
ROAR
ROAR
HERE AT THE BASE-BALL PARK, WITH 40,000 PEOPLE WATCHING, IT'S THE FINAL INNING, WITH TWO OUTS AND THE BASES LOADED...
ROAR
ROAR


TANJIMA'S AT BAT, THREE BALLS AND TWO STRIKES... A BASE HIT HERE COULD TURN DEFEAT TO VICTORY! THE PITCHER'S WINDING UP..

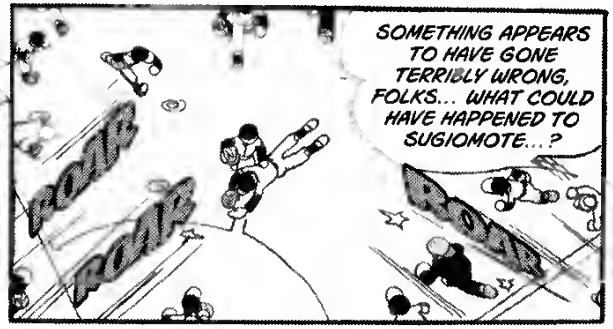
≥HACK≤ ... ≥UGH≤...

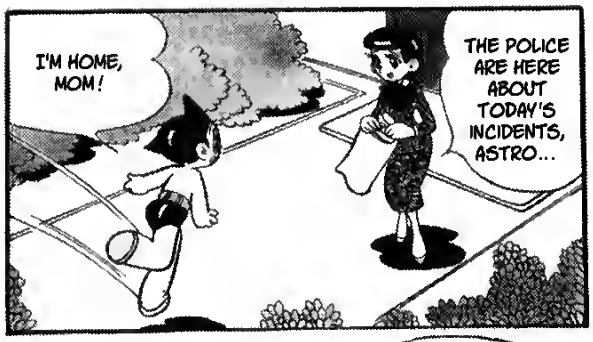
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
≥HACK≤




AND THE PITCH GOES WILD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THE RUNNERS ARE ALL CROSSING HOME PLATE!

WAIT A MINUTE... SOMETHING'S WRONG... SUGIO-MOTE, THE PITCHER, IS OUT COLD!


ROAR
ROAR
SOMETHING APPEARS TO HAVE GONE TERRIBLY WRONG, FOLKS... WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO SUGIOMOTE...?
ROAR


I'M HOME, MOM!
THE POLICE ARE HERE ABOUT TODAY'S INCIDENTS, ASTRO...

INCIDENTS? WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S GOING ON?
PEOPLE HAVE SUDDENLY BEEN DYING...

A BASEBALL PITCHER, A JET RACE DRIVER...? I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, MOM...
WELL, COME ON IN, ANYWAY...

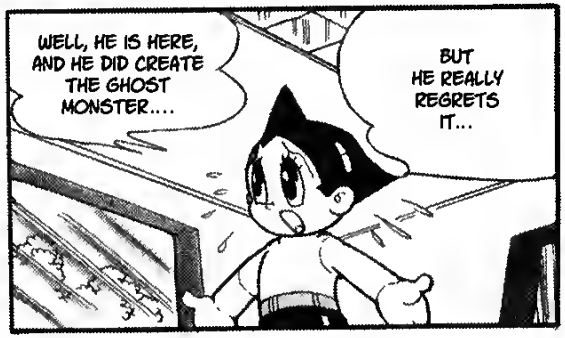
BUT GUESS WHAT... I FOUND HANABUSA'S *BLUEPRINTS*...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, ASTRO, BUT TRY NOT TO GET TOO INVOLVED IN THESE WEIRD CASES, OKAY...?
DON'T WORRY, MOM... I'LL BE CAREFUL....

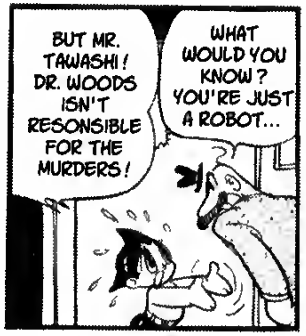
WOW... MR. TAWASHI AND MR. NAKAMURA ARE HERE...

IT'S ABOUT THE *GHOST MURDERS*, ASTRO... THEY'RE HAPPENING ALL OVER THE PLACE ...
AT THE POLICE AGENCY WE DID SOME RESEARCH, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THAT GHOST-MONSTER'S BEING CONTROLLED BY A SCIENTIST NAMED DR. WOODS...
BY *DR. WOODS*?!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR HIM... HE'S ONE OF OUR MAIN SUSPECTS...

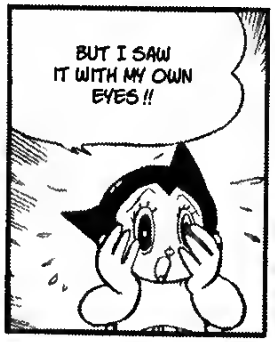

WELL, HE IS HERE, AND HE DID CREATE THE GHOST MONSTER....
BUT HE REALLY REGRETS IT...

ANYWAY, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM IN, ASTRO...


BUT MR. TAWASHI! DR. WOODS ISN'T RESONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS!
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW? YOU'RE JUST A ROBOT...

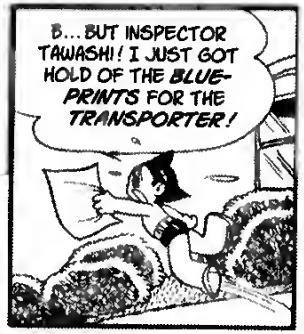
MR. TAWASHI, PLEASE... IT WAS *MR. NADA! HE'S* THE ONE...
HMPH

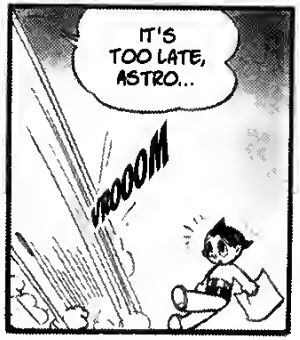
THAT'S THE SAME THING WOODS SAYS... BUT WE DID A SEARCH FOR A COMPANY NAMED GUD 4 NADA LTD., AND IT WASN'T EVEN LISTED...
WHAT?!

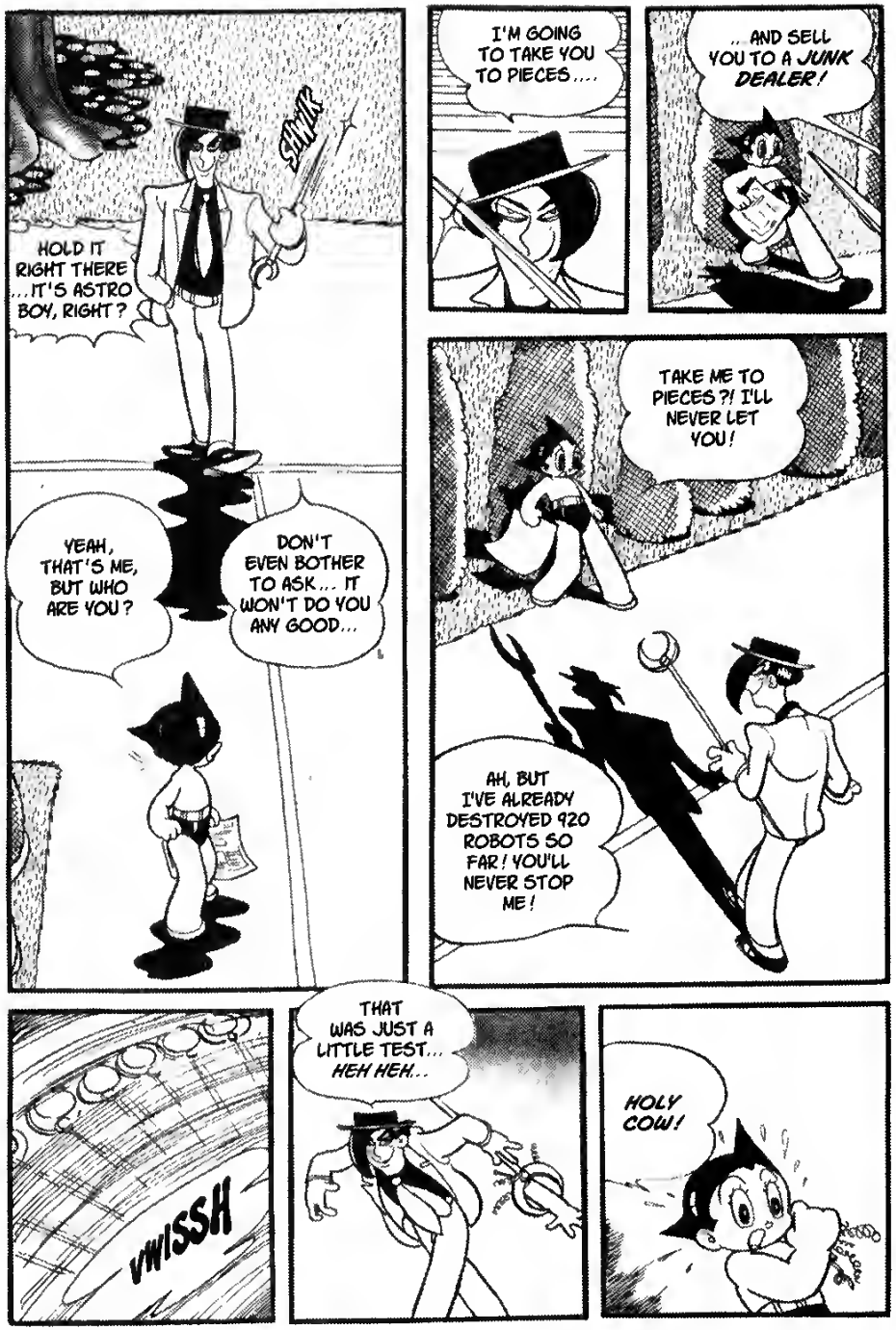

BUT I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!!

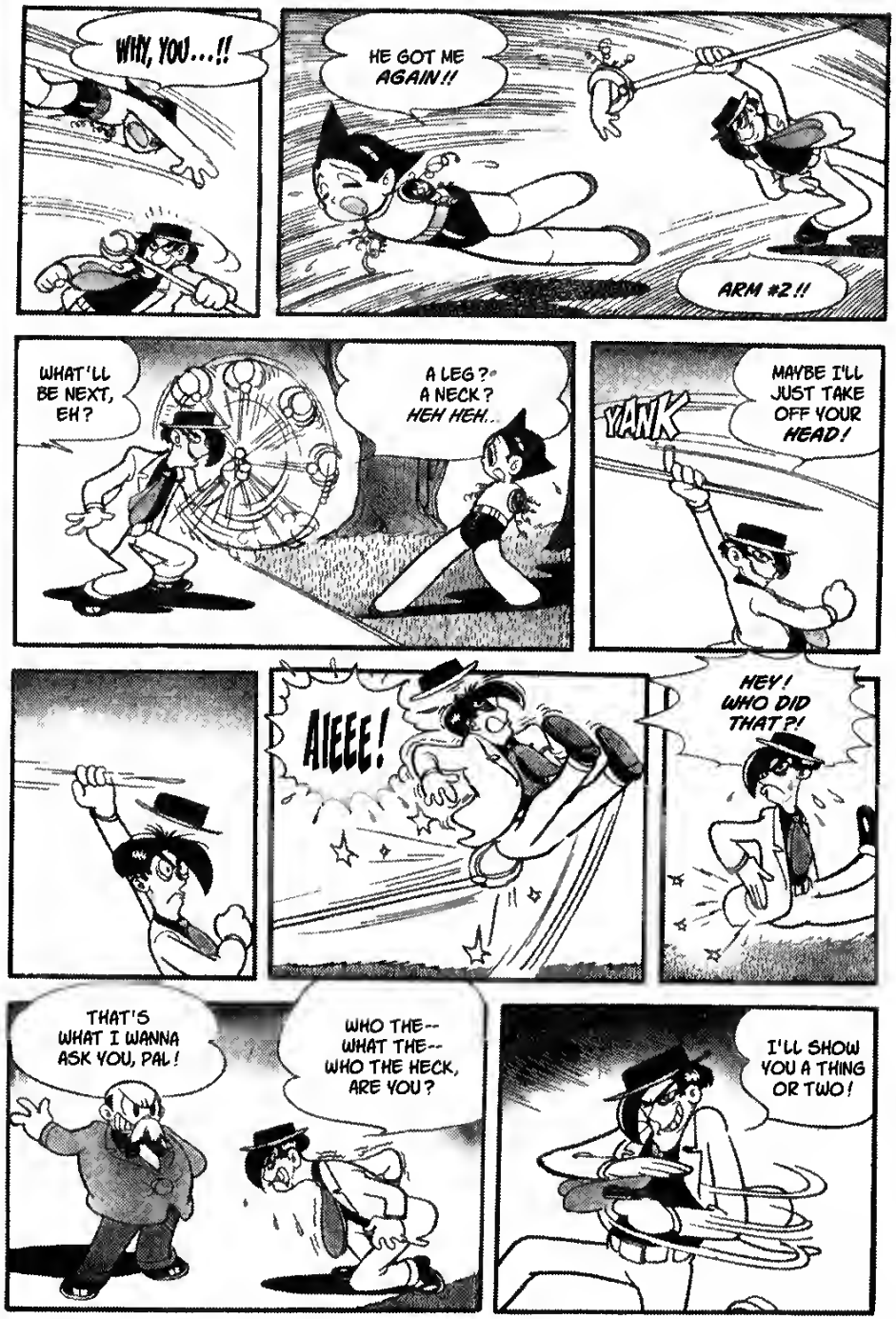
ASTRO, SOMETIMES YOUR EYES ARE WORTHLESS ...
'COURSE THEY'RE REALLY JUST GLASS BALLS ...

NO, MR. TAWASHI... I'M NOT KIDDING... THERE *IS* A COMPANY CALLED GUD 4 NADA, AND THEY *WERE* TRYING TO USE THE GHOST...
ENOUGH, ASTRO! YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE CHARGED AS A CO-CONSPIRATOR...

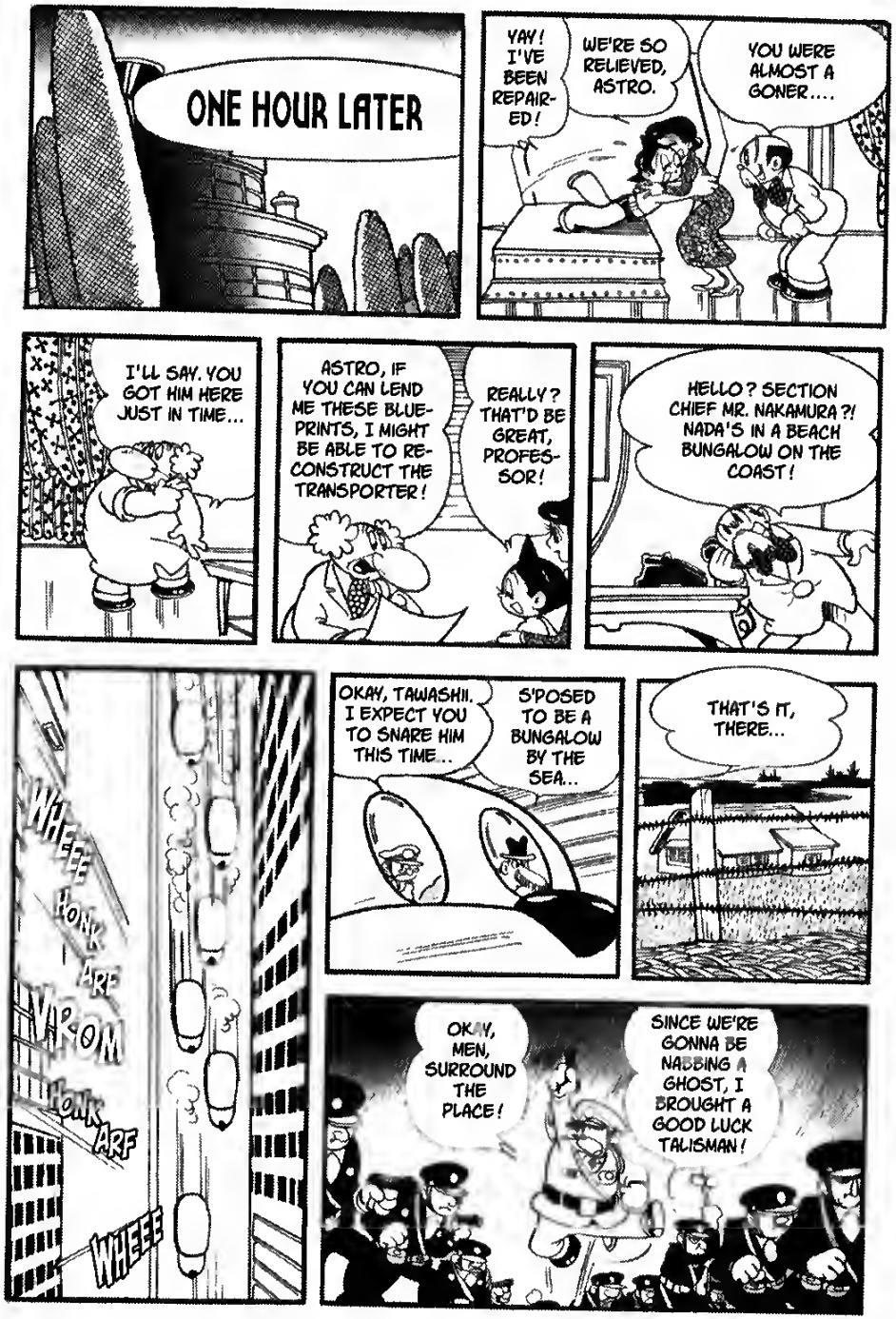

B... BUT INSPECTOR TAWASHI! I JUST GOT HOLD OF THE *BLUEPRINTS* FOR THE *TRANSPORTER!*


IT'S TOO LATE, ASTRO...
VROOOM


SLASH
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE ...IT'S ASTRO BOY, RIGHT?
YEAH, THAT'S ME, BUT WHO ARE YOU?
DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO ASK... IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD...
I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO PIECES....
.. AND SELL YOU TO A JUNK DEALER!
TAKE ME TO PIECES?! I'LL NEVER LET YOU!
AH, BUT I'VE ALREADY DESTROYED 920 ROBOTS SO FAR! YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME!
VWISSH
THAT WAS JUST A LITTLE TEST... HEH HEH...
HOLY COW!


WHY, YOU...!!
HE GOT ME AGAIN!!
ARM #2!!
WHAT'LL BE NEXT, EH?
A LEG? A NECK? HEH HEH..
YANK
MAYBE I'LL JUST TAKE OFF YOUR HEAD!
AIEEE!
HEY! WHO DID THAT?!
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA ASK YOU, PAL!
WHO THE-- WHAT THE-- WHO THE HECK, ARE YOU?
I'LL SHOW YOU A THING OR TWO!

FWip
IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND, PAL! I'LL SHOW YOU!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO TREAT POOR ASTRO LIKE THAT!
ARGH!
I'M ANGRY! REALLY REALLY ANGRY NOW!
BAM BAM BAM
WHO HIRED YOU TO ATTACK ASTRO!?
SPEAK, YOU JUNK-PUNK!
SLAP
IT... IT WAS THE BOSS OF THE GUD 4 NADA COMPANY!
WHERE IS HE?!
HE'S IN A BUNGALOW, ON THE BEACH...
THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW, PUNKSTER!
ASTRO! MY POOR DEAR ASTRO!
GOSH, THANKS FOR HELPING ME, TEACHER!!


ONE HOUR LATER
YAY! I'VE BEEN REPAIR-ED!
WE'RE SO RELIEVED, ASTRO.
YOU WERE ALMOST A GONER....
I'LL SAY. YOU GOT HIM HERE JUST IN TIME...
ASTRO, IF YOU CAN LEND ME THESE BLUE-PRINTS, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO RE-CONSTRUCT THE TRANSPORTER!
REALLY? THAT'D BE GREAT, PROFES-SOR!
HELLO? SECTION CHIEF MR. NAKAMURA?! NADA'S IN A BEACH BUNGALOW ON THE COAST!
WHEEE
HONK
ARF
VROOM
HOWL
ARF
WHEEE
OKAY, TAWASHII. I EXPECT YOU TO SNARE HIM THIS TIME...
S'POSED TO BE A BUNGALOW BY THE SEA...
THAT'S IT, THERE...
OKAY, MEN, SURROUND THE PLACE!
SINCE WE'RE GONNA BE NABBING A GHOST, I BROUGHT A GOOD LUCK TALISMAN!

ALL RIGHT! NADA! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
YOU MUST SURRENDER! RESISTANCE IF FUTILE! COME ON OUT, WITH THE 3D TV!
WE KNOW YOU USED THE GHOST TO CARRY OUT MURDERS!
YOU'RE TRAPPED! THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN! SO DO AS I SAY!
COME ON OUT! ANSWER US!!
WE'VE NO CHOICE... TOSS IN THE TEAR GAS...

KA-FOMP
HE'LL COME CRAWLING OUT ANY MINUTE, WEEPING!
THIS IS WEIRD... SOMETHING'S SUCKING IN THE TEAR GAS...
HEY, THERE'S A WEIRD MIST COMING OUT OF THE PLACE!
IT LOOKS ALIVE!! THIS IS BIZARRE!
DON'T BREATHE IN THIS MIST, OR YOU'LL SUFFOCATE! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERYONE ELSE...
WHAT? YOU MUST BE KIDDING!
ACK!!

HERE COMES THE MIST! EVERYBODY RUN FOR IT!
WATCH OUT!!
UH OH! IT GOT ME!
ACK!
SMASH

KBOM
KBOM
KABOMPETTY
BOM
BASH
SPRONG
HE'S TRYING TO SMASH ...
... THESE FUEL TANKS!
Uh oh...
YIKES!
TAKE THIS!
WOOSH
WOOSH
THIS GUY'S REALLY SCARY...
I KNOW... RATHER THAN FIGHT HIM DIRECTLY, I OUGHTA SMASH THE 3D TV INSIDE THE BUNGALOW!
I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF THIS EARLIER!
CRASH!

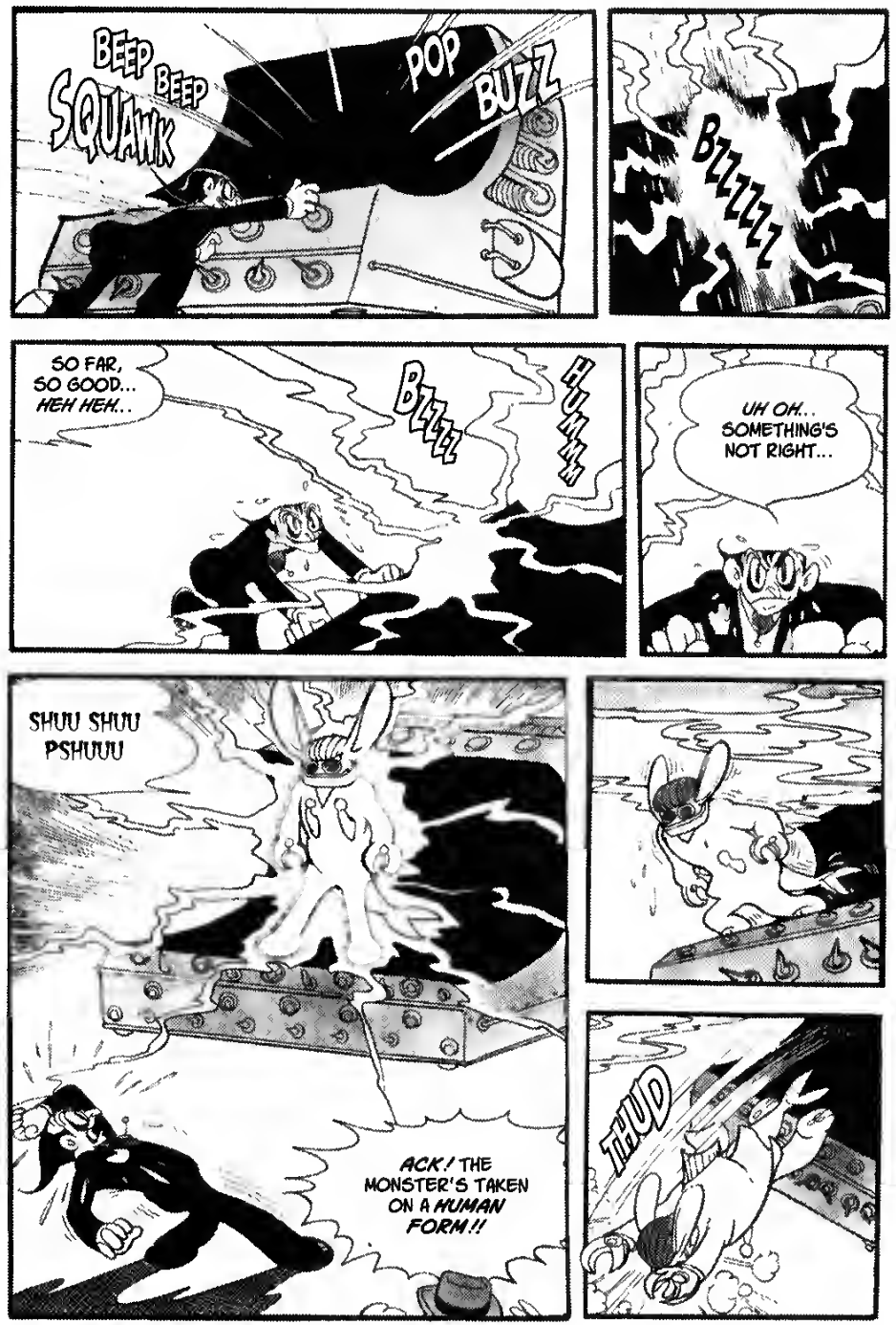
SO THERE YOU ARE, NADA!
AND HERE'S THE 3D TV!
IF I TEAR THIS APART...
SMASH
...THE MONSTER WON'T BE ABLE TO REAPPEAR!
BASH
FWP
WHA...
THE...
THE MONSTER SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED!
HECK ??!
HA HA HA GWA HA HA HA!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, WEIRDO?
I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING! THIS IS A RIOT!

WELL, STOP LAUGHING!
YOU'RE NEXT ON THE LIST!
YOU'RE STUPIDER THAN I THOUGHT... YOU NEED A REASON-- AND PROOF!
AND WHERE'S THE PROOF THAT I CONTROLLED THE MONSTER !?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ARREST ME FOR, TIN-BOY?...
ACK! I JUST SMASHED THE MAIN EVIDENCE!
BAM
NADA, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
AND HERE'S THE ARREST WARRANT!
AW, SHUCKS... YOU PLAN TO ARREST ME?
WHY DON'T YOU CHECK OUT THE EVIDENCE HERE, FIRST?
WHAT THE--?!.
ASTRO BOY... WHY YOU...

TEACH-ER, I...
ASTRO, IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT THAT THE BAD GUY WAS LET OFF THE HOOK!!
YOU'RE JUST NOT UP TO FIGHTING WITH REALLY SNEAKY BAD PEOPLE LIKE NADA, ASTRO!
BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM SO MUCH...
MAYBE PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'D UNDERSTAND MY SITUATION...
WHEN I SEE REALLY BAD PEOPLE LIKE THAT, I CAN'T HELP MYSELF.. I JUST WANNA TEACH 'EM A LESSON...
MAYBE ROBOTS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO THINK THAT WAY...
WELL, WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T ASTRO BOY... EVERYONE'S BEEN A LITTLE HARD ON YOU, EH?
TEE HEE HEE...
BET THEY TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH US, EH?
WHAT HAPPENED?!

HEH HEH HEH... BET YOU WERE SURPRISED TO FIND ME HERE IN PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S LAB....
YOU SCOUNDRELS! WHAT'VE YOU DONE TO PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?!

WE HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING YET...
BUT IF YOU DON'T BEHAVE...
...WE'LL PUT AN EXTRA HOLE IN HIS BIG NOSE...
YOU MEN ARE TERRI-BLE!
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?
WHAT'D WE COME FOR? FOR THAT!
WH... WHAT IS IT?
IT'S AN ELECTRO MATTER TRANSPORTER!
AN ELECTRO MATTER TRANS-PORTER?!
THE ONE AND ONLY... PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU JUST MADE IT, BASED ON BLUEPRINTS...
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, TIN-BOY!!
I'M GOING TO USE IT AND SUMMON THE MONSTER ONE MORE TIME!


BEEP BEEP
SQUAWK
POP
BUZZ
BZZZZZ
SO FAR, SO GOOD... HEH HEH...
BZZZZ
HUMM
UH OH... SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT...
SHUU SHUU PSHUUU
ACK! THE MONSTER'S TAKEN ON A HUMAN FORM!!
THUD

NO, IT'S NOT HUMAN!
IT'S A HUMAN!
IT'S GOT A FISH TAIL!
YOU'RE HANABUSA, AREN'T YOU?
CAN YOU TALK?
YES...
I NEED A MIRROR...
OH MY GOSH...
THIS IS WHAT I LOOK LIKE!?
SOB IT'S HOPELESS! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO NORMAL!!
WITH THE MATTER TRANS-PORTER, I THOUGHT I COULD REVERT TO MY ORIGINAL FORM!
BUT HOW COME YOU LOOK LIKE THAT?
BECAUSE I'VE GOT FISH, RABBIT, AND ROBOT MOLECULES MIXED IN WITH MINE!!
AND YOU SCOUNDRELS HAVE HAD A LOT OF NERVE TO USE ME THE WAY YOU DID!

RATATATAT
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
UH OH! HE'S STILL ALIVE!
THAT'S 'CUZ I'M PART ROBOT NOW, 'N BULLETS JUST BOUNCE OFF ME!!
HE'S RIGHT! IT'S NO USE!
WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM, GUYS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
NOT SO FAST, BAD GUY!
OWW!
STOP! IT HURTS!
TIME FOR YOU GUYS TO GET ON THE MATTER TRANS-PORTER!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT WORKS!
CLK

HAALP!
ZAP
GOOD! IT WORKED!
THIS MACHINE'S A LOT BETTER THAN THE ONE I MADE!
ZAP
WHAT--? WHERE ARE WE?
WHO CARES! AT LEAST WE'RE OKAY!!
WHAT HAPPENED?
THE TRANSPORTER JUST TRANSPORTED US TO ANOTHER PLACE, YOU IDIOT!
BOODOH!
BUT WHAT A PLACE IT IS!!
BOODOH!

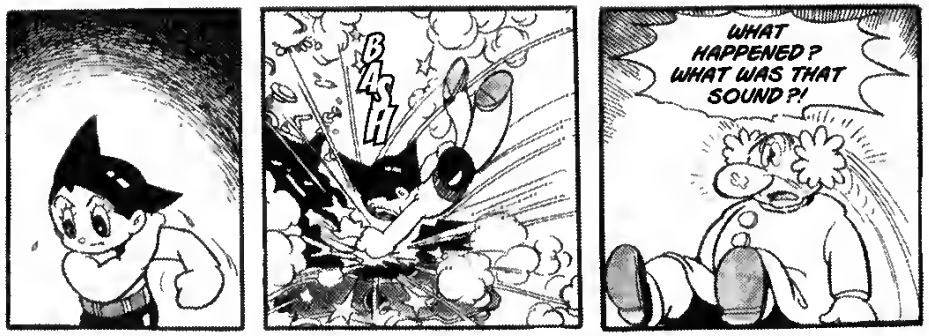
WE'RE IN... A-A-AFRICA!!
TIME TO RUN FOR IT!!
ZAP
WE'RE BEEN TRANSPORTED AGAIN!
WHERE ARE WE NOW?
SURE IS A RAUCOUS PLACE...
WE'RE IN A MUSICAL REVIEW, AND WE'RE ON STAGE!
THE AUDIENCE IS WATCHING US!
AND THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO! SHAKE A LEG, GUYS!

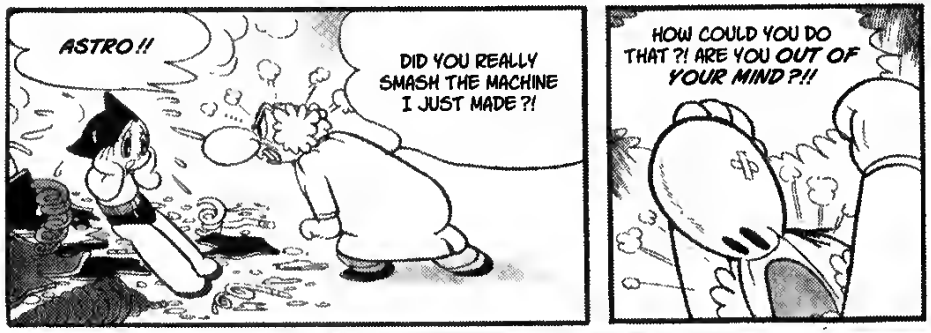
ACK!
JUST WHEN WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE, THE THING KICKS IN AGAIN!
WHAT NEXT?
WHOOOSH
SMASH
HAALP! WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BULL FIGHT!
YAY
YAY
YAY
YAY
I'M GETTING EXHAUSTED!
HOORAY
GAH!
ZAP

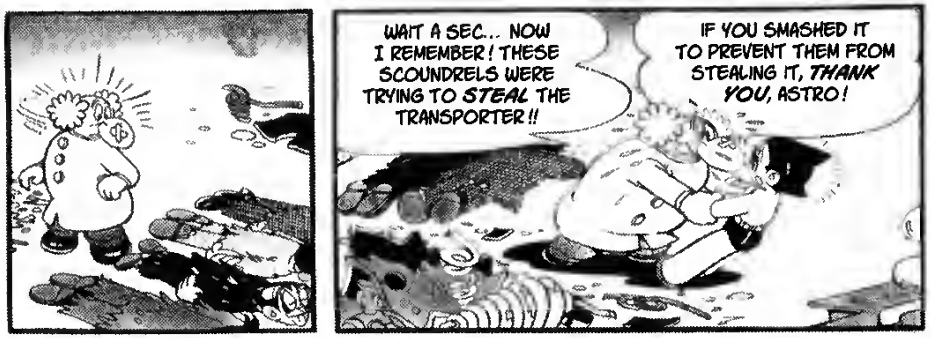
AH-CHOO!
HAKAA-CHOOO!
A--
GLUB GLUB
GLUB BLUB HELP! HELP!
HUHN --P!
ZAP
SOME-BODY... HAALP...

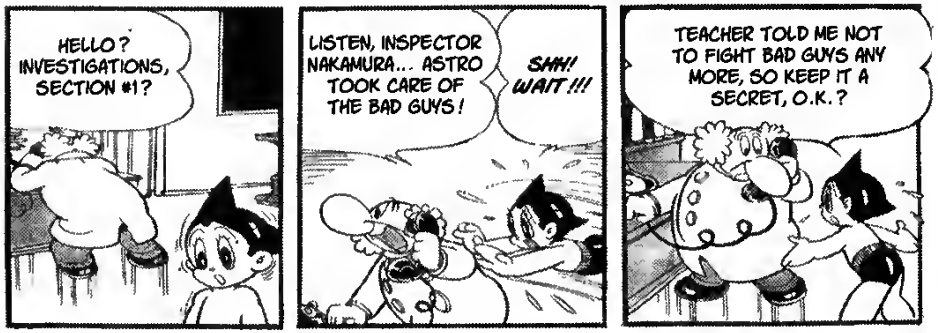
WHA--?!
VROOOM
oink
NO MORE... PULEEZE...
ZAP
HEH HEH... WELL, I HOPE YOU GUYS HAD FUN SIGHTSEEING... THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MISUSE THIS MACHINE!
AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE THIS WORLD...
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING! YOU JUST GOT A PHYSICAL BODY!
BUT NADA USED ME TO KILL PEOPLE!!
BUT IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!

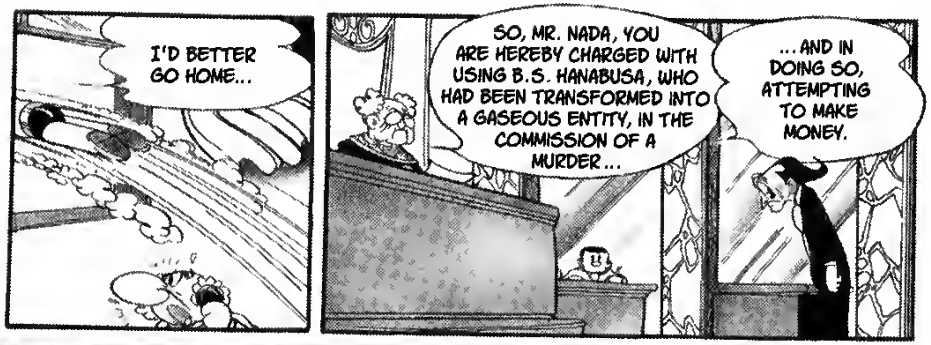
YOU'RE RIGHT... WHILE I WAS IN MIST FORM, I WAS JUST A MONSTER... I WASN'T A HUMAN...
BUT THE WAY I AM NOW, AFTER AWHILE MY HUMANNESS WOULD PROBABLY DISAPPEAR, AND I'D GRADUALLY REVERT TO BEING A MONSTER AGAIN...
WAIT! THERE ARE PLACES WHERE EVEN SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD LIVE HAPPILY...
ZOOS OR FREAK SHOWS, RIGHT? THANKS, BUT NO THANKS!
I'M GOING TO DISAPPEAR ALONG WITH THESE BLUEPRINTS... HIT THE SWITCH, ASTRO!
.....
AND AFTER I'M GONE, YOU'VE GOTTA SMASH THIS MACHINE, OKAY?!
SO NO ONE CAN EVER MAKE...
...THIS CURSED THING AGAIN!
ZAP
HUMMM BZZ

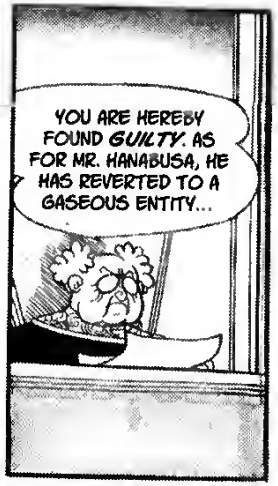

BAM!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?!

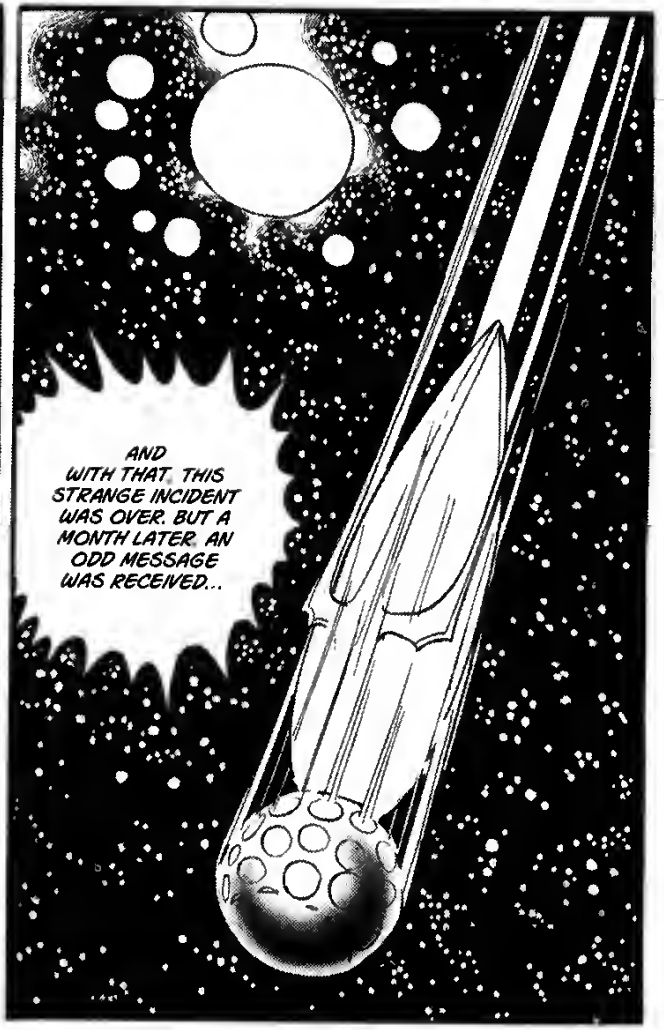

ASTRO!!
DID YOU REALLY SMASH THE MACHINE I JUST MADE?!
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!!


WAIT A SEC... NOW I REMEMBER! THESE SCOUNDRELS WERE TRYING TO STEAL THE TRANSPORTER!!
IF YOU SMASHED IT TO PREVENT THEM FROM STEALING IT, THANK YOU, ASTRO!

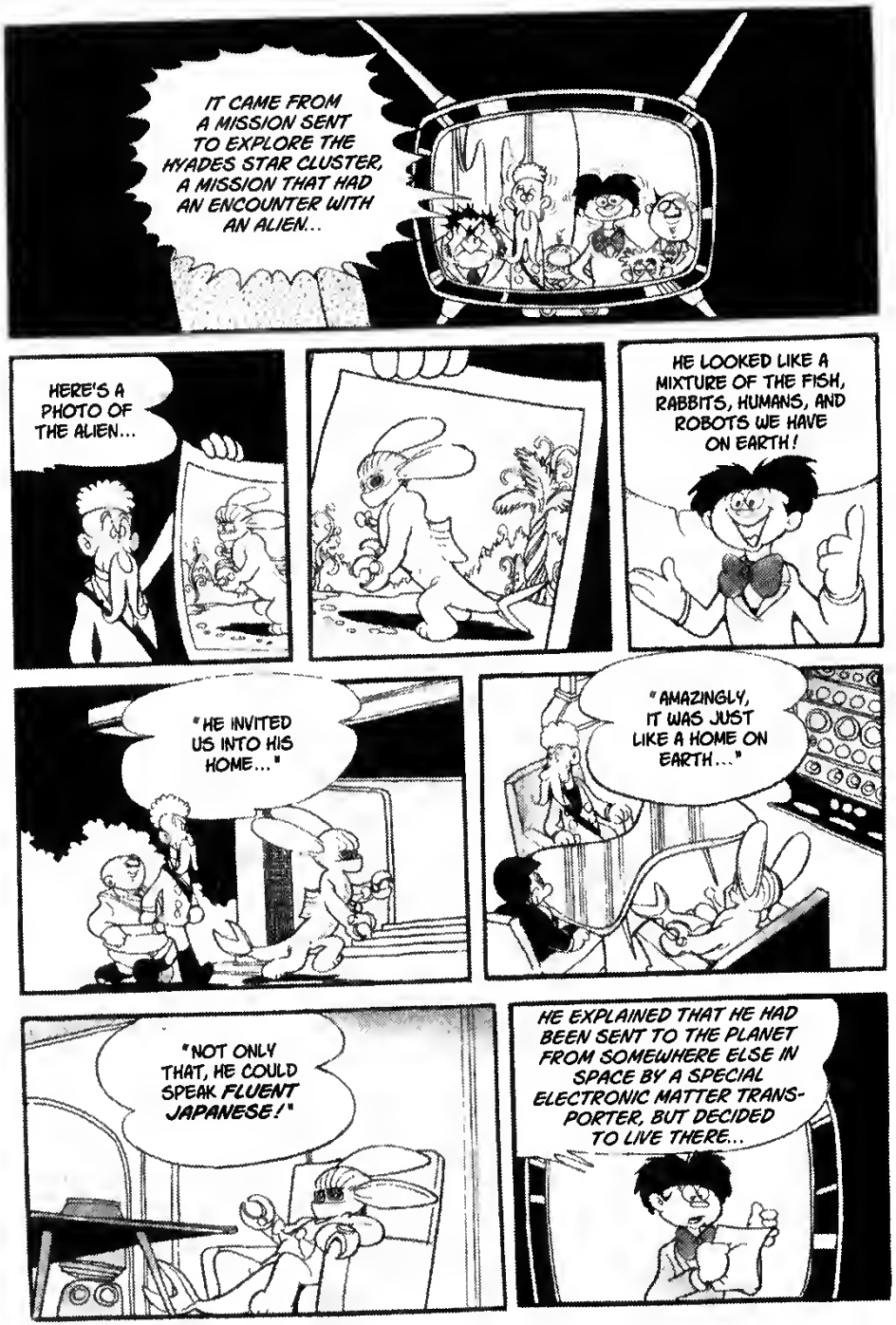

HELLO? INVESTIGATIONS, SECTION #1?
LISTEN, INSPECTOR NAKAMURA... ASTRO TOOK CARE OF THE BAD GUYS!
SHH! WAIT!!!
TEACHER TOLD ME NOT TO FIGHT BAD GUYS ANY MORE, SO KEEP IT A SECRET, O.K.?


I'D BETTER GO HOME...
SO, MR. NADA, YOU ARE HEREBY CHARGED WITH USING B.S. HANABUSA, WHO HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A GASEOUS ENTITY, IN THE COMMISSION OF A MURDER...
...AND IN DOING SO, ATTEMPTING TO MAKE MONEY.


YOU ARE HEREBY FOUND GUILTY. AS FOR MR. HANABUSA, HE HAS REVERTED TO A GASEOUS ENTITY...


AND WITH THAT, THIS STRANGE INCIDENT WAS OVER. BUT A MONTH LATER, AN ODD MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED...

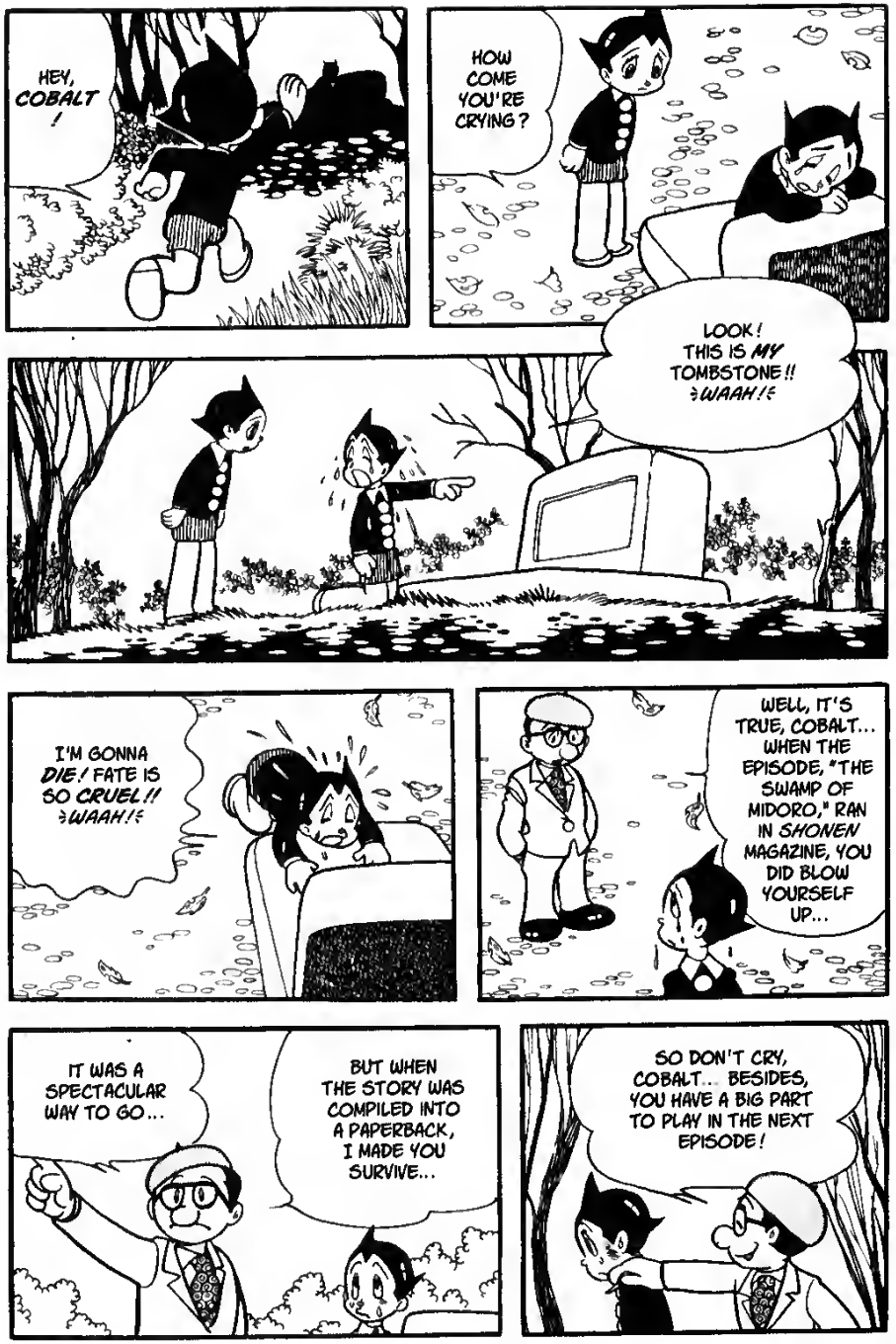
...AND WILL PROBABLY NEVER APPEAR BEFORE HUMANS AGAIN...

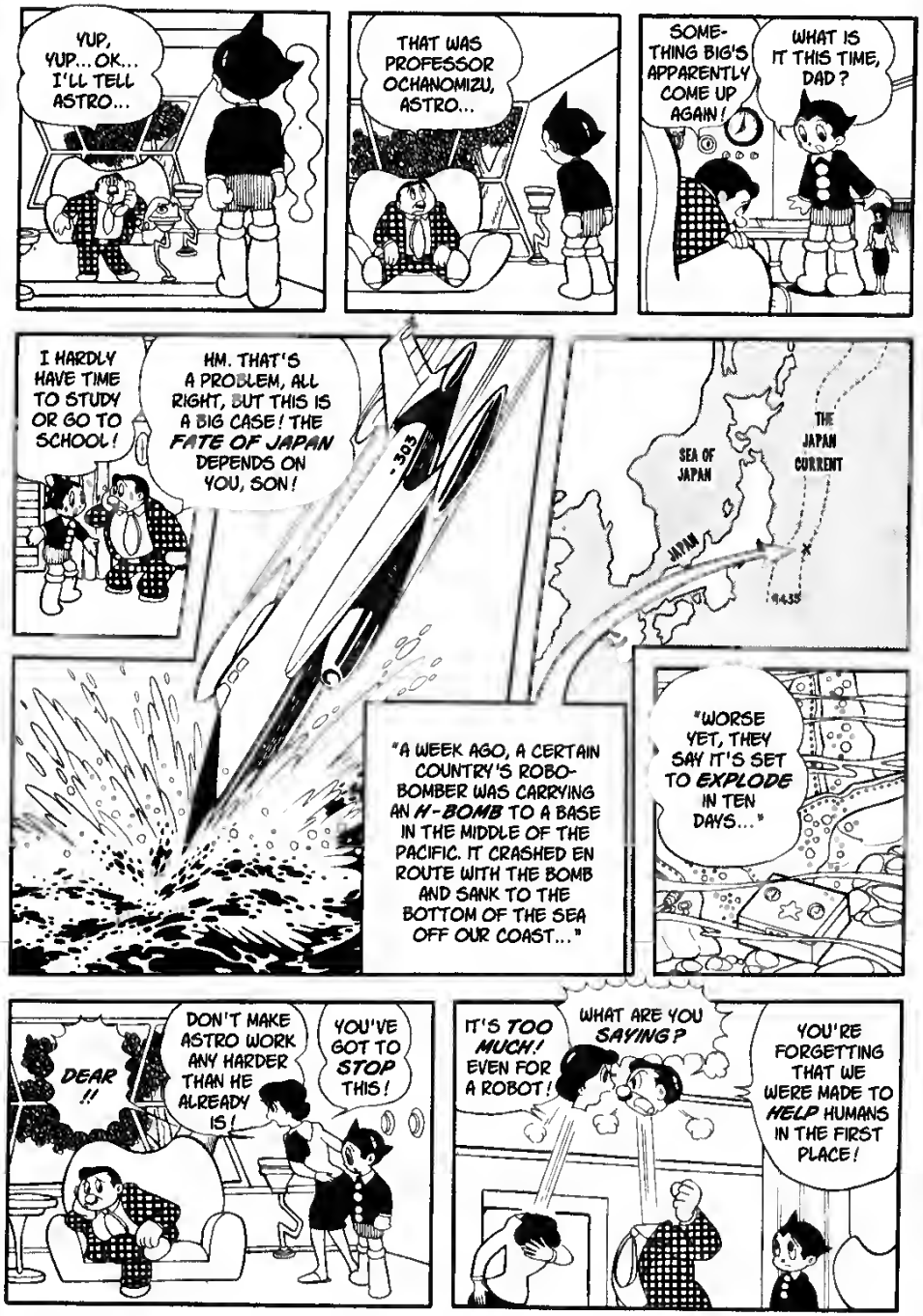

IT CAME FROM A MISSION SENT TO EXPLORE THE HYADES STAR CLUSTER, A MISSION THAT HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH AN ALIEN..
HERE'S A PHOTO OF THE ALIEN...
HE LOOKED LIKE A MIXTURE OF THE FISH, RABBITS, HUMANS, AND ROBOTS WE HAVE ON EARTH!
"HE INVITED US INTO HIS HOME..."
"AMAZINGLY, IT WAS JUST LIKE A HOME ON EARTH..."
"NOT ONLY THAT, HE COULD SPEAK FLUENT JAPANESE!"
HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN SENT TO THE PLANET FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE IN SPACE BY A SPECIAL ELECTRONIC MATTER TRANSPORTER, BUT DECIDED TO LIVE THERE...

AND HE SAID TO SAY HELLO TO SOMEONE NAMED "ASTRO..."
?
HEY... HOW COME AN ALIEN KNOWS YOUR NAME, ASTRO?
HEH HEH... IT'S A SECRET, DAD...
MR. HANABUSA'LL PROBABLY BE A LOT HAPPIER LIVING UP THERE THAN DOWN HERE ON EARTH..
THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND LIFEFORMS ON DIFFERENT PLANETS... SOMETIMES I THINK SOME OF THEM GOT WHERE THEY ARE WITH THE AID OF AN ELECTRONIC MATTER TRANSPORTER... COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE IT'S TRUE OF LIFE ON EARTH, TOO...

COBALT

First serialized from June to September 1954
in *Shonen* magazine.


HEY, COBALT!
HOW COME YOU'RE CRYING?
LOOK! THIS IS MY TOMBSTONE!! ≒WAAH!≒
I'M GONNA DIE! FATE IS SO CRUEL!! ≒WAAH!≒
WELL, IT'S TRUE, COBALT... WHEN THE EPISODE, "THE SWAMP OF MIDORO," RAN IN SHONEN MAGAZINE, YOU DID BLOW YOURSELF UP...
IT WAS A SPECTACULAR WAY TO GO...
BUT WHEN THE STORY WAS COMPILED INTO A PAPERBACK, I MADE YOU SURVIVE...
SO DON'T CRY, COBALT... BESIDES, YOU HAVE A BIG PART TO PLAY IN THE NEXT EPISODE!

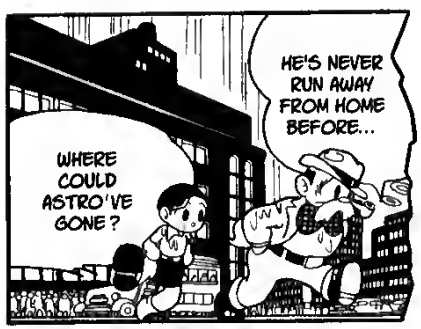

YUP, YUP... OK... I'LL TELL ASTRO...
THAT WAS PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU, ASTRO...
SOME-THING BIG'S APPARENTLY COME UP AGAIN!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME, DAD?
I HARDLY HAVE TIME TO STUDY OR GO TO SCHOOL!
HM. THAT'S A PROBLEM, ALL RIGHT, BUT THIS IS A BIG CASE! THE FATE OF JAPAN DEPENDS ON YOU, SON!
-303
SEA OF JAPAN
THE JAPAN CURRENT
JAPAN
"A WEEK AGO, A CERTAIN COUNTRY'S ROBO-BOMBER WAS CARRYING AN H-BOMB TO A BASE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC. IT CRASHED EN ROUTE WITH THE BOMB AND SANK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA OFF OUR COAST..."
"WORSE YET, THEY SAY IT'S SET TO EXPLODE IN TEN DAYS..."
DEAR!!
DON'T MAKE ASTRO WORK ANY HARDER THAN HE ALREADY IS!
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS!
IT'S TOO MUCH! EVEN FOR A ROBOT!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU'RE FORGETTING THAT WE WERE MADE TO HELP HUMANS IN THE FIRST PLACE!

"JUST THINK ..."
"IN THREE DAYS, JAPAN COULD BE DESTROYED!"
"... AND THE H-BOMBS ARE AT A DEPTH OF OVER 24 THOUSAND FEET, DEEPER THAN HUMANS HAVE EVER GONE BEFORE..."
IN ALL JAPAN, THERE'S ONLY ONE MACHINE THAT CAN HANDLE THIS, AND IT'S YOU, ASTRO...
NO, DEAR, NO! I LOVE ASTRO, AND I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF MY DEAR SON BEING EXPOSED TO ANY MORE DANGER!
ENOUGH, WOMAN! ENOUGH!
I WON'T BE QUIET! YOU'RE TOO HIGH-HANDED ABOUT THIS!
SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER MARITAL SPAT AT ASTRO'S PLACE...
HEY, SHAD-DAP!
ACK
NO!
BEEP
BEEP
HEY, ASTRO! WHY DON'T YOU COME TO OUR PARTY!
A ROCKET I MADE WON FIRST PRIZE IN A CONTEST! WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO CELEBRATE!
AW, SHUDDUP, TAMAO!
WE CALL IT AN "ASTRO ROCKET"...

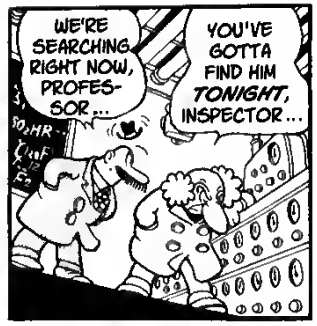
YOU GO LIKE THIS 'N IT FLIES OUT. SEE?
KLUNK
WOOSH
YEAH, BUT I MADE IT!
HEY, PUNKSTER! WHAT'S WITH THE ROCK-THROWING?!
ER, UM, WE DIDN'T THROW ANY-THING. IT FLEW ON ITS OWN!
HEY, LET GO OF HIM, YOU BULLY! WE'VE GOT ASTRO ON OUR SIDE!
JUST WAIT! NEXT TIME I'LL CATCH YOU WHEN HE'S NOT AROUND 'N WHUP YOU ONE!
UM, I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER... I'VE GOTTA GO TO PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S...
B... BUT ASTRO... I NEED YOU AROUND!!
YOU'VE GOTTA WATCH WHAT YOU SAY TO THOSE KIDS FROM HEIBON ELEMENTARY, TAMAO..
WHAAH!! I'M SCARED! HE'S GONNA WHUP ME!
WISH WE HAD SUMTHIN' LIKE ASTRO AT HEIBON...
HELLO? PROFESSOR? IS ASTRO STILL AT YOUR PLACE?
ASTRO? NO... HE'S NOT HERE YET... WHAT? HE LEFT A LONG TIME AGO?
WHAT? ASTRO'S MISSING? YOU SURE, PROFESSOR?

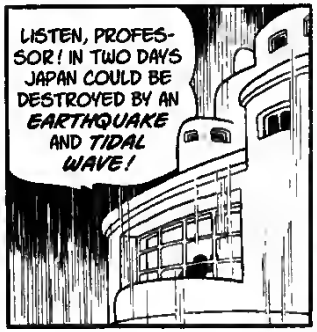
DID YOU HEAR? ASTRO'S MISSING!
YOU SURE?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
SO YOU KIDS WERE THE LAST ONES TO SEE HIM, EH?... NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT HIM?
JUMPING JEEPERS! THAT SETTLES IT! TIME TO MOBILIZE THE AGENCY!
VROOM
HONKA
ASTRO!
ANSWER US, ASTRO!
ASTRO, WHERE ARE YOU?
COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE I WAS TOO HARD ON ASTRO...
.....
.....
BETTER KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR HIM ALL NIGHT LONG, INSPECTOR TAWASHI...
SAME FOR YOU, TOO, NAKAMURA... TIME TO TRADE IN YOUR SHUT-EYES FOR SOME EAGLE-EYES...
ASTRO MIGHT BE FLYING AROUND SOME-WHERE...
WE'LL TRY 'N FIND HIM WITH A SEARCH-LIGHT...
WHAT? HE WAS SPOTTED WALKING THROUGH THE UNDER-PASS TOWARDS THE WEST EXIT OF IKEBUKURO STATION? THAT SETTLES IT!
ATTENTION ALL PATROL CARS! HEAD FOR IKEBUKURO!
SCREE
EEE
EE

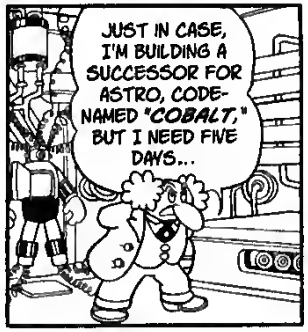
BEEP BEEP CAR 44 REPORTING... WE'VE SPOTTED WHAT APPEARS TO BE ASTRO, RUNNING FROM THE WEST EXIT IN THE DIRECTION OF SHIINAMACHI...
WHEEE WHEE
JUMPIN' JEEPERS! HE MUST'VE LOST A SCREW!
WHEE WHEE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHEE
WONDER WHO THEY'LL ARREST...
IKEBUKURO STATION
TRANSFER FOR TOEI LINE
WHEEE
WHEEE
THEY SAY ASTRO'S MISSING!
UH OH... IT'S THE KIDS FROM HEIBON!
ER, UM, GD' AFTER-NOON ...
HEY, SHOW YER FACE, PUNK-STER!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? I'LL CALL FOR HELP!
JUST TRY! NO ASTRO THIS TIME!!
THIS'LL TEACH YOU!
OKAY, OKAY, OKAY... ACK!
DON'T EVER INSULT HEIBON AGAIN!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING, ASTRO! DON'T LEAVE ME!
ASTRO! YOU STUPID!! WAAAH!
AAAAAASTRO! HAAAALP!
ASTRO !!

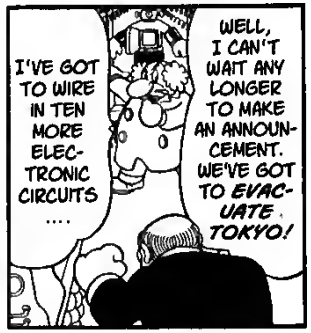


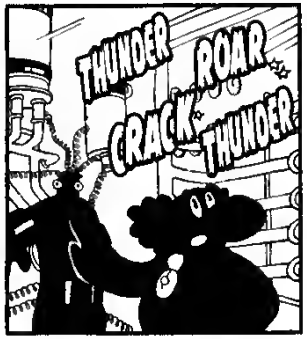
MEANWHILE, OVER AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, PEOPLE WERE WORRIED ABOUT A MUCH WORSE PROBLEM...

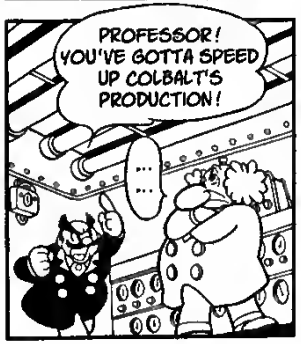


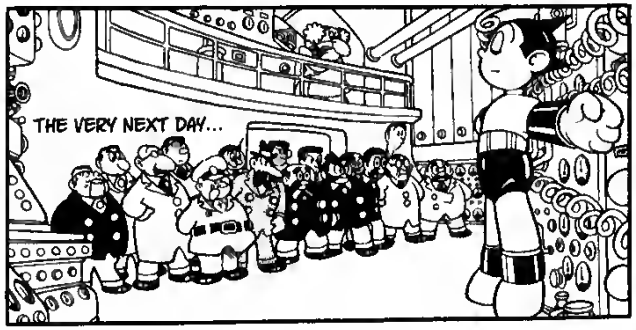


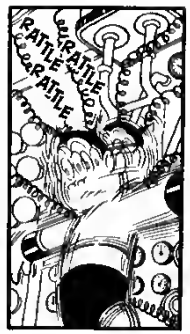


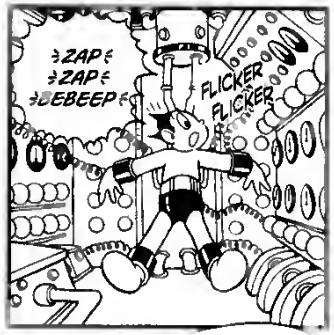

I'VE GOT TO WIRE IN TEN MORE ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS....
WELL, I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT. WE'VE GOT TO EVACUATE TOKYO!

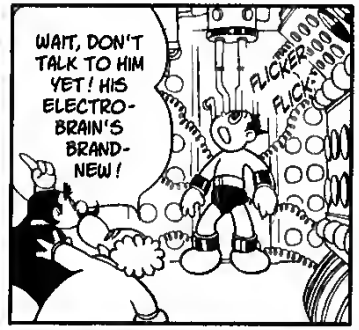


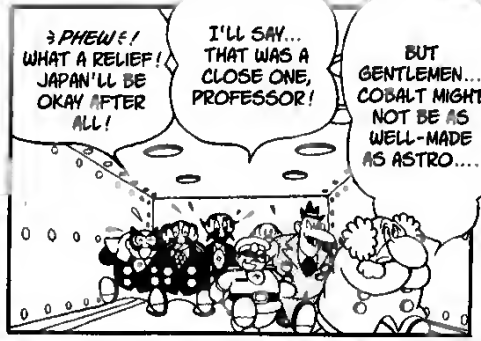


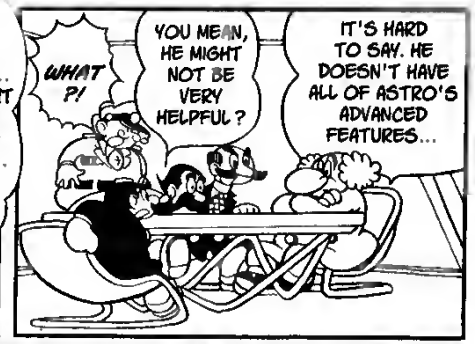


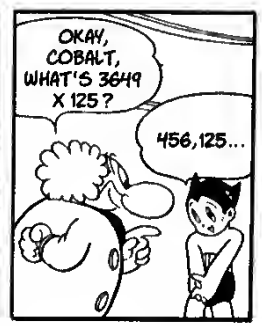







PHEW!
WHAT A RELIEF! JAPAN'LL BE OKAY AFTER ALL!
I'LL SAY... THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE, PROFESSOR!
BUT GENTLEMEN... COBALT MIGHT NOT BE AS WELL-MADE AS ASTRO....





WELL DONE!... NOW TRY'N DISASSEMBLE THIS...
AMAZING! LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT THE SAME I.Q. AS ASTRO!
?
?
?
I CAN'T!
I CAN'T DO IT!!
WELL, THAT DIDN'T WORK. HE'S OBVIOUSLY NOT GOOD AT DETAILED WORK...
HE'S NO USE THEN!
THE BOMB EXPLODES TOMORROW! WHAT'LL WE DO?!
WAAH!
SCRAP THE USELESS LUNKHEAD!
WHAT HAPPENED, INSPECTOR?!
ASTRO'S BEEN FOUND!!
HONK HONK
IF WE DON'T CATCH HIM TODAY, WE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE TOMORROW...
IT'S HARAKIRI FOR ME IF WE FAIL...
WHERE'S ASTRO? DID YOU GET HIM?
NO, BUT WE'VE GOT THE PLACE HE RAN INTO SURROUNDED!
HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF THE SITE...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THAT'S ASTRO..

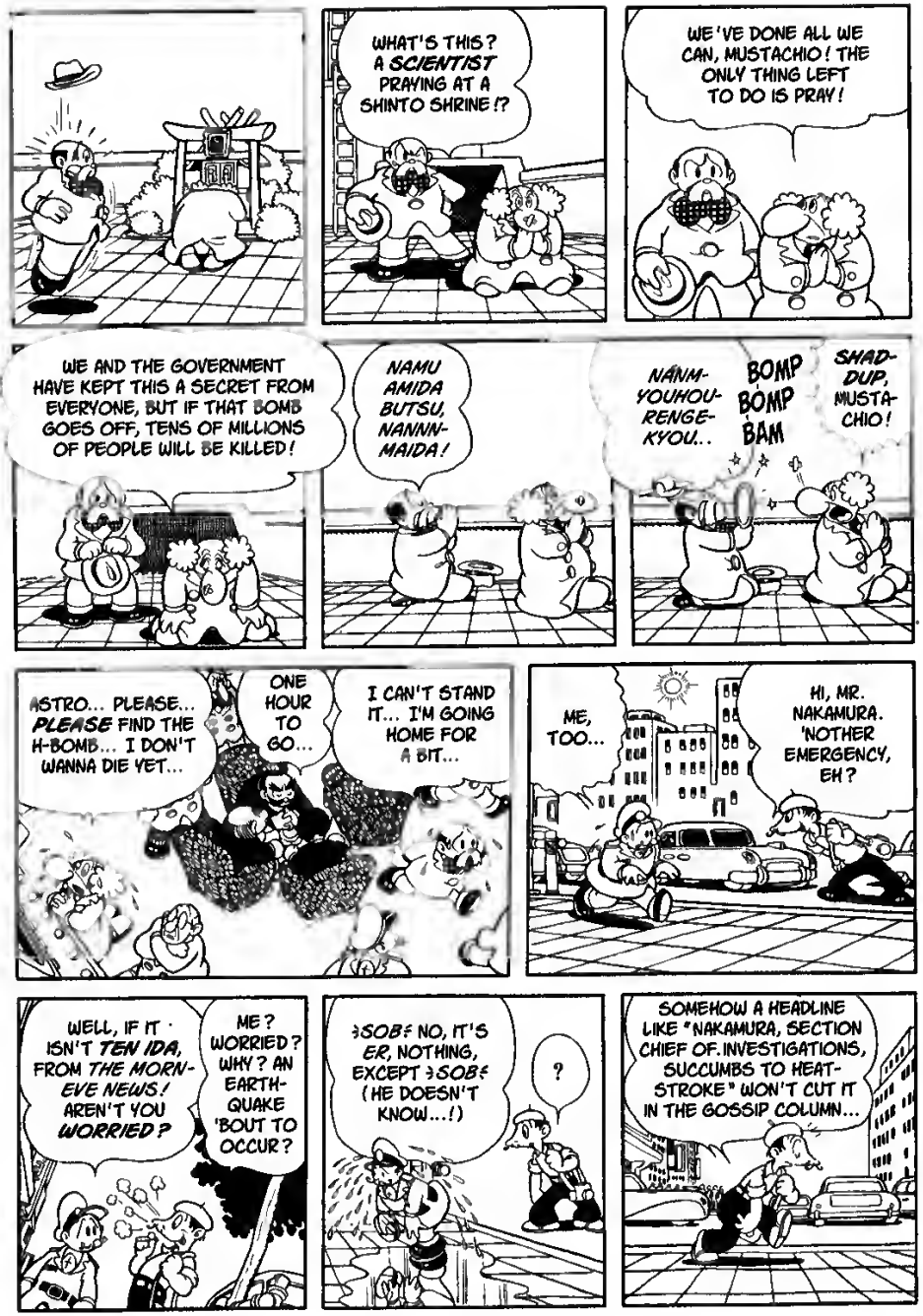
BE CAREFUL MEN. ASTRO'S GOT SUPER-POWERS. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO TO GET AWAY...
THE AIR FORCE IS HERE TO HELP...
MAKE THE PLACE HE'S HIDING AS BRIGHT AS DAY!
SEND IN THE ROBO-COPS!
SEARCH THAT CONSTRUCTION SITE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, MEN!
...BUT BE CAREFUL!
COME ON OUT, ASTRO! WE DON'T KNOW WHY YOU RAN AWAY, BUT THERE'S NO USE IN HIDING!
SILENCE...
THEY SAID THIS IS WHERE ASTRO IS!
ASTRO! IT'S ME, KEN! JAPAN'S FACING A CRISIS! YOU'VE GOTTA COME OUT 'N SAVE US!
ASTRO! COME OUT OR WE'LL FRY THE WHOLE AREA USING A DISSOLVER BOMB!
WHAT THE?!
HAAALP!
HAALP!

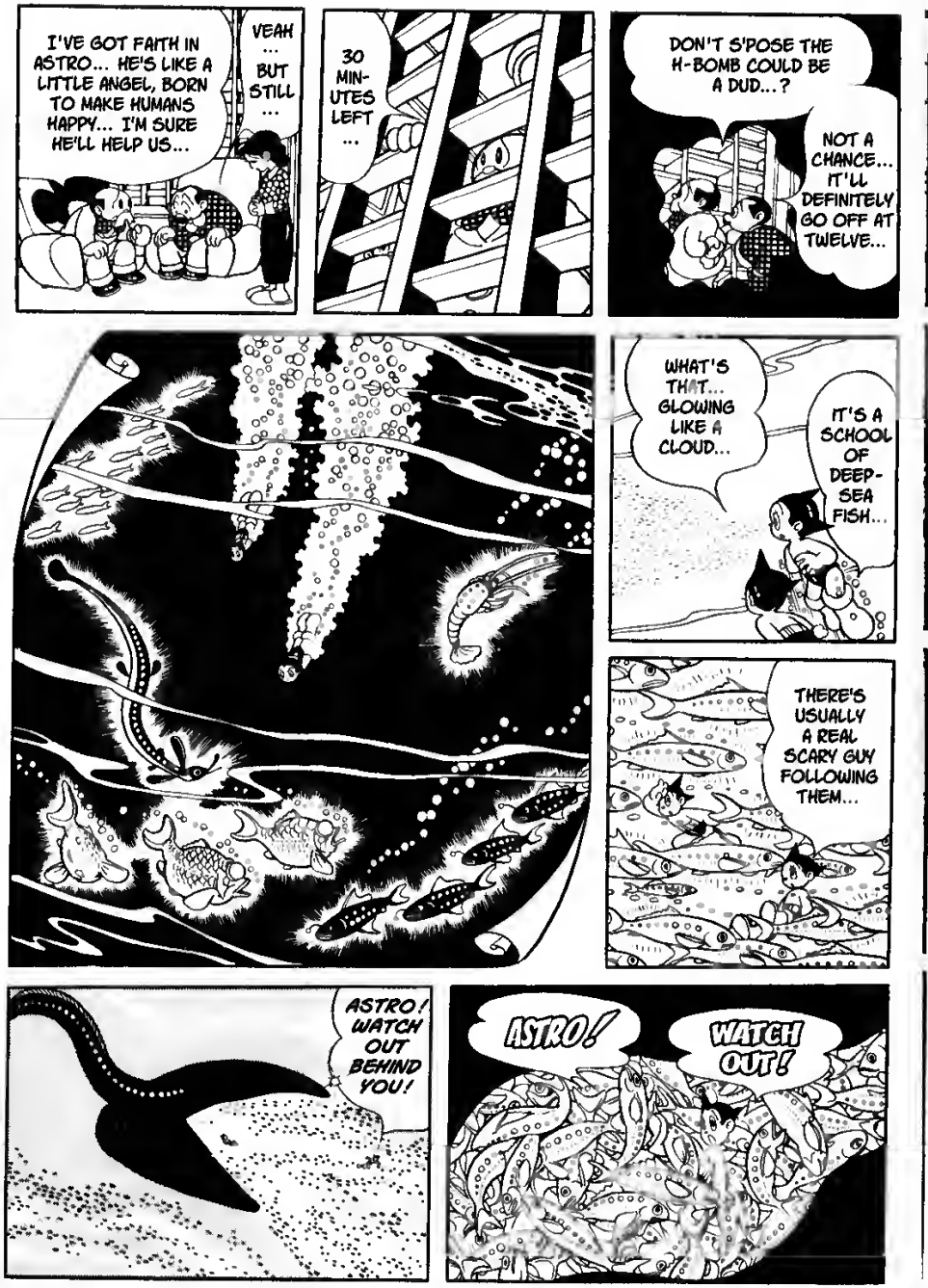
KLANK
WHAT THE --?!
IT'S A KID FROM HEI-BON!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING HIDING IN THERE?
DID YOU SEE ASTRO? WELL!?
ASTRO! COME ON OUT!
WATCH BEHIND YOU, KENNICHI! HE MIGHT BE THERE!
RIGHT BEHIND ... ACK !!
.....
.....
TEACHER!
LOOK! I THOUGHT THIS WAS ASTRO'S HEAD... BUT IT'S A MASK...
A MASK?
ONE OF THE OLDER KIDS TOLD ME TO WEAR AN ASTRO MASK AND SCARE THE BOYS FROM OCHANOMIZU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SEE, SO THAT'S WHY--
I GET THE PICTURE.... SO THE ASTRO THAT TAMAO SAW AT IKEBUKURO WAS REALLY YOU, EH?
WHA?! NOW I'M REALLY TAKEN ABACK! YOU MEAN WE WERE CHASING AN IMPOSTER?!

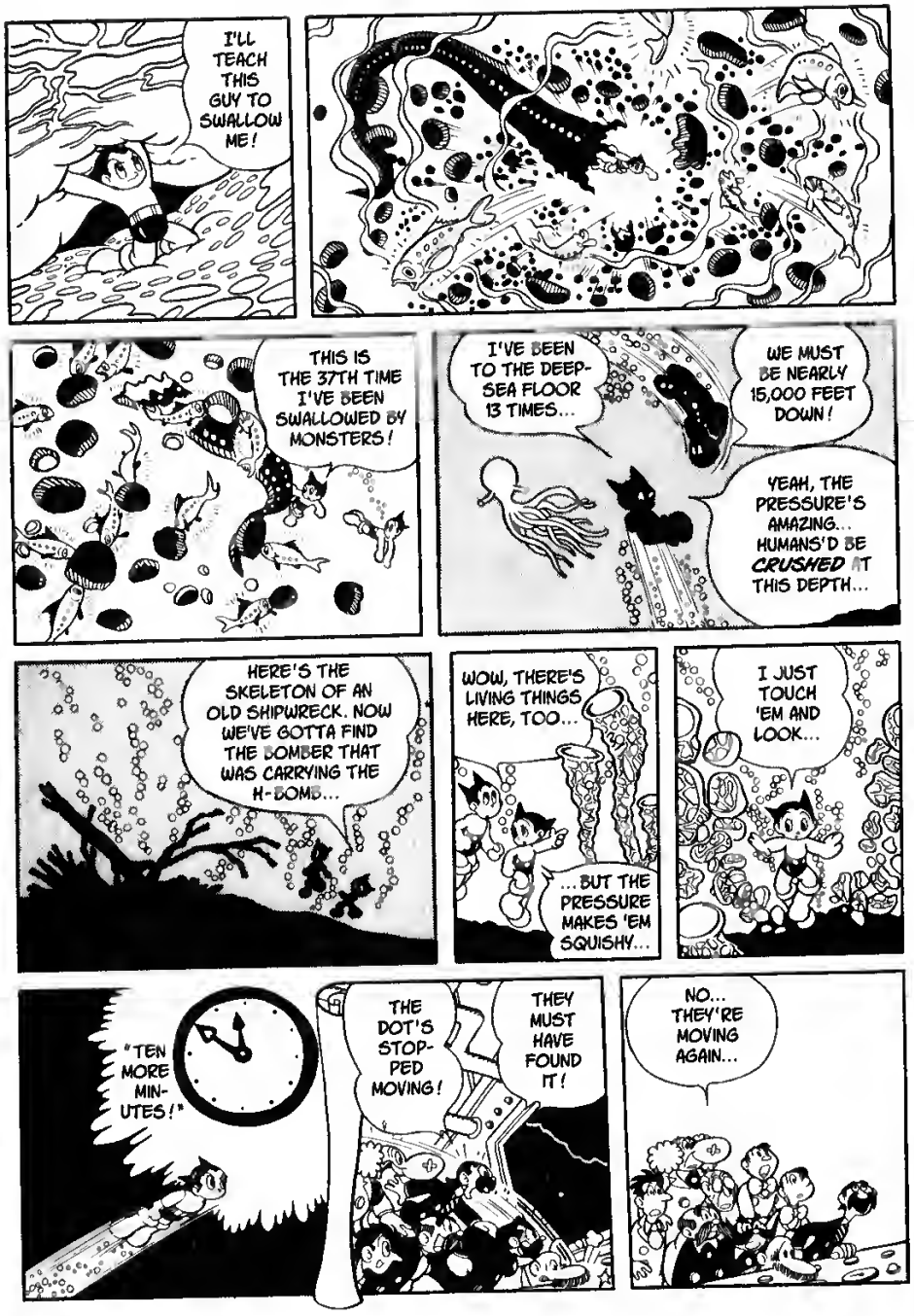
G...GENTLEMEN! I'VE BEEN FORGET-TING AN IMPORTANT FACT!
?
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE?! MUST HAVE FLIPPED MY LID!
GENTLEMEN! WE'VE GOTTA USE COBALT TO FIND ASTRO! COBALT!!
THE OMEGA RADAR IN COBALT'S CHEST EMITS THE SAME SIGNALS AS THE RADAR IN ASTRO'S! THEY CAN ATTRACT EACH OTHER!
I GET IT... SORT OF LIKE THE PAIR OF SWORDS IN THE STORY OF TANGE SAZEN!
EXACTLY! COBALT, I KNOW YOU CAN FIND ASTRO, NO MATTER WHERE HE IS!
OH... ASTRO ...
GO FORTH, COBALT!
ASTRO...
SMASH
VOOOSH
NOW TO THE RADAR ROOM! I PLANTED A SYNCHRONOMETER IN COBALT'S HEAD, SO NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES...
...HE'LL REGISTER AS A POINT ON THE RADAR SCREEN...
HE'S LEFT TOKYO AND HEADED SOUTH, GENTLEMEN!
HE'LL BE OUT OF TOKYO BAY IN NO TIME!
WHAT'S THIS? HIS COURSE IS GETTING ERRATIC!

ZOOOM...
THIS IS #2 RECON-SQUAD! WE HAVE SIGHTED ASTRO BOY!
ROAR
IT'S ASTRO! ASTRO'S FLYING BY!
NO! THAT'S NOT ASTRO! IT'S COBALT! CEASE PURSUIT!
PROFESSOR! COBALT'S GOING FURTHER AND FURTHER OUT TO SEA...
NOW I GET IT! ASTRO'S ALREADY UNDER THE SEA! THAT'S WHY COBALT'S HEADED THERE!
WE SHOULD'VE KNOWZED IT! ASTRO'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE H-BOMB ALL LONG!
ASTRO, WE PRAY IT'S TRUE... AND THAT YOU'LL FIND THE BOMB BEFORE IT BLOWS UP!
ZOOOM
RECON-SQUAD TO BASE. COBALT HAS PLUNGED INTO THE SEA!!
MEANWHILE, ASTRO WAS UNDERSEA...
WAIT A SEC! SOMETHING'S CALLING ME! I WONDER WHAT IT IS?!
GOSH, I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE BOMB FOR TWO DAYS AND STILL HAVEN'T FOUND IT!
?
WHO ARE YOU?!

?
YOU'RE A ROBOT... JUST LIKE ME!
I'M COBALT ...
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CALL ME TO YOU...
?
AND YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CALL ME...
MAYBE WE'RE BROTHERS?
YEAH, WE ARE! PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU SAYS WE BOTH HAVE SOMETHING CALLED AN OMEGA RADAR THAT SENDS A SIGNAL OUT CALLING EACH OTHER...
YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH HEAVY WATER PRESSURE, EITHER, DO YOU?
NOPE! WE'VE GOT THE SAME BODIES!
LET'S GO, THEN!
COBALT'S DIVING DEEPER AND DEEPER!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S LOCATED ASTRO! WHAT A RELIEF!
BUT LOOK AT THE CLOCK, PROFESSOR!! THE CRISIS ISN'T OVER!
HMM. ONLY FOUR MORE HOURS TILL THE EXPLOSION ...
FOUR HOURS P!
ONLY FOUR ?
FOUR HOURS... AND ASTRO'S STILL GOTTA FIND THE BOMB...
PROFESSOR! I HEARD ASTRO'S UNDERSEA!


WHAT'S THIS? A SCIENTIST PRAYING AT A SHINTO SHRINE!?
WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN, MUSTACHIO! THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO IS PRAY!
WE AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE KEPT THIS A SECRET FROM EVERYONE, BUT IF THAT BOMB GOES OFF, TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL BE KILLED!
NAMU AMIDA BUTSU, NANNN-MAIDA!
NANM-YOUHOU-RENGE-KYOU...
BOMP BOMP BAM
SHAD-DUP, MUSTA-CHIO!
ASTRO... PLEASE... PLEASE FIND THE H-BOMB... I DON'T WANNA DIE YET...
ONE HOUR TO GO...
I CAN'T STAND IT... I'M GOING HOME FOR A BIT...
ME, TOO...
HI, MR. NAKAMURA. 'NOTHER EMERGENCY, EH?
WELL, IF IT ISN'T TEN IDA, FROM THE MORN-EVE NEWS! AREN'T YOU WORRIED?
ME? WORRIED? WHY? AN EARTH-QUAKE 'BOUT TO OCCUR?
SOB NO, IT'S ER, NOTHING, EXCEPT SOB (HE DOESN'T KNOW...!)
?
SOMEHOW A HEADLINE LIKE "NAKAMURA, SECTION CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS, SUCCUMBS TO HEAT-STROKE" WON'T CUT IT IN THE GOSSIP COLUMN...

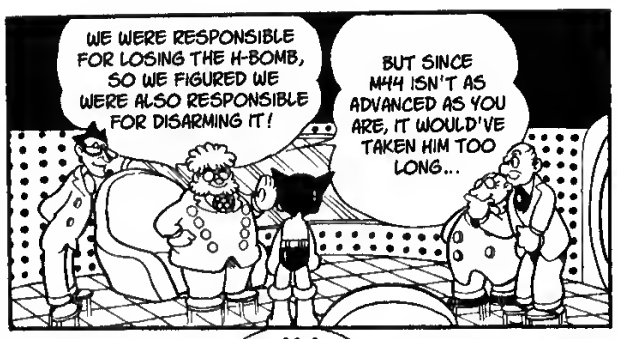

I'VE GOT FAITH IN ASTRO... HE'S LIKE A LITTLE ANGEL, BORN TO MAKE HUMANS HAPPY... I'M SURE HE'LL HELP US...
VEAH ... BUT STILL ...
30 MIN-UTES LEFT ...
DON'T S'POSE THE H-BOMB COULD BE A DUD...?
NOT A CHANCE... IT'LL DEFINITELY GO OFF AT TWELVE...
WHAT'S THAT... GLOWING LIKE A CLOUD...
IT'S A SCHOOL OF DEEP-SEA FISH...
THERE'S USUALLY A REAL SCARY GUY FOLLOWING THEM...
ASTRO! WATCH OUT BEHIND YOU!
ASTRO!
WATCH OUT!


I'LL TEACH THIS GUY TO SWALLOW ME!
THIS IS THE 37TH TIME I'VE BEEN SWALLOWED BY MONSTERS!
I'VE BEEN TO THE DEEP-SEA FLOOR 13 TIMES...
WE MUST BE NEARLY 15,000 FEET DOWN!
YEAH, THE PRESSURE'S AMAZING... HUMANS'D BE CRUSHED AT THIS DEPTH...
HERE'S THE SKELETON OF AN OLD SHIPWRECK. NOW WE'VE GOTTA FIND THE BOMBER THAT WAS CARRYING THE H-BOMB...
WOW, THERE'S LIVING THINGS HERE, TOO...
... BUT THE PRESSURE MAKES 'EM SQUISHY...
I JUST TOUCH 'EM AND LOOK...
"TEN MORE MIN-UTES!"
THE DOT'S STOP-PED MOVING!
THEY MUST HAVE FOUND IT!
NO... THEY'RE MOVING AGAIN...

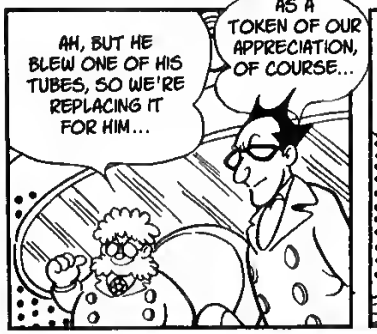
TIME FOR WHAT MAY BE MY FINAL CUP OF TEA...
FIVE MORE MINUTES!! I CAN'T STAND IT...
THE DOT'S STOPPED!
THEY'VE REALLY STOP-PED! THEY MUST HAVE FOUND SOMETHING!
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE 'EM TO SWITCH OFF THE BOMB'S TIMER, PRO-FESSOR?
WELL, ASTRO COULD DO IT IN 2 MINUTES!
NOT A SECOND TO SPARE!!
WHAT'S WRONG, ASTRO?
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY RECENTLY, I DIDN'T HAVE MY BODY OVERHAULED... I MUST'VE OVERDONE IT...
BUT ASTRO, YOU CAN'T LET US DOWN NOW... THERE'S NO TIME!
ONE OF MY VACUUM TUBES IS ABOUT TO FAIL...
HERE, USE ONE OF MINE. REPLACE YOURS BEFORE YOU LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS...
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, CO-BALT?
HURRY!
JUST HAVE THE PROFESSOR REPAIR ME LATER..
OKAY, COBALT... IT'S A DEAL!

I PROMISE TO HAVE YOU REPAIRED LATER, COBALT...
20 SEC-ONDS...
10 SEC-ONDS...
5 SEC-ONDS...
4 SEC-ONDS...
3 SEC-ONDS...
2 SEC-ONDS...
TIK TOK BONG
BONG
BONG
WHEEEE
WHEEEE
WAIL
WELL, PROFESSOR, DAD... EVERYONE, I DID IT!
IT DIDN'T EXPLODE! WE'RE ALIVE!
BANZAI! THANK YOU! UWAHAHAHAHA! HEH HEH HOORAY! HOW 'BOUT THAT?!
"SECTION CHIEF NAKAMURA GETS HEAT STROKE"... MAYBE IT WOULD WORK AS A TITLE...

OKAY, COBALT!
TIME TO GO HOME!
HA HA... ASTRO... I'VE BORROWED THE BOY YOU WERE LOOKING FOR. IF YOU WANT HIM BACK, FOLLOW ME...
HUHN?! HE'S NOT HERE!
WHAT'S THIS THING?
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HID COBALT...
DO NOT BE ANGRY. I AM NOT A BAD ROBOT...
I CAME HERE TO TRY TO PREVENT THE EXPLOSION, TOO...
YOU JUST BEAT ME TO IT...
WHA?!
I AM M44. I WAS SENT HERE BY THE COUNTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSING THE H-BOMB!
M44 DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A VERY COOL NAME...
I AGREE...
LET ME INTRODUCE MY COMMANDER!


WE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSING THE H-BOMB, SO WE FIGURED WE WERE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR DISARMING IT!
BUT SINCE M44 ISN'T AS ADVANCED AS YOU ARE, IT WOULD'VE TAKEN HIM TOO LONG...

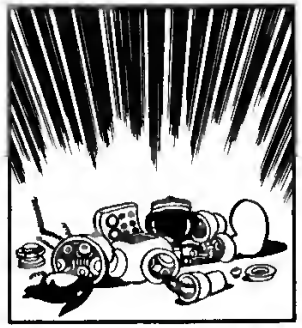
I UNDERSTAND, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE KIDNAPPED COBALT LIKE THAT! YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE HIM BACK!

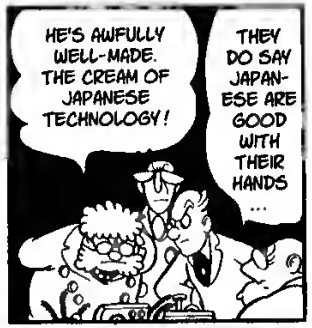

AH, BUT HE BLEW ONE OF HIS TUBES, SO WE'RE REPLACING IT FOR HIM...
AS A TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION, OF COURSE...

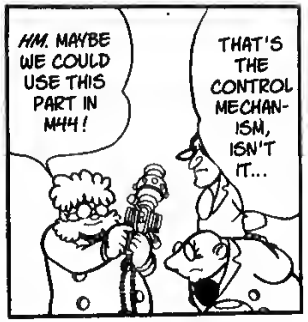
HANG ON A SECOND... WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

FOOLING A ROBOT'S A PIECE OF CAKE...
SLAM

HOW'S IT GOING?
STILL DISASSEMBLING HIM, SIR...

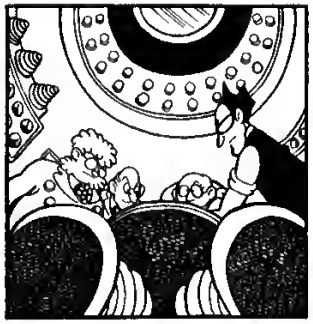



HE'S AWFULLY WELL-MADE. THE CREAM OF JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY!
THEY DO SAY JAPANESE ARE GOOD WITH THEIR HANDS...

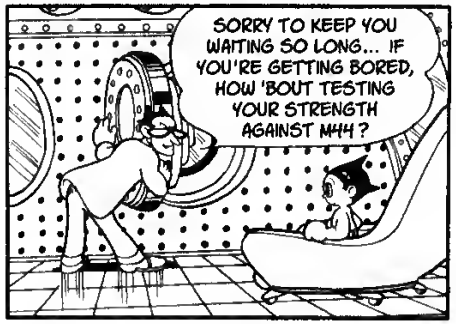

HM. MAYBE WE COULD USE THIS PART IN M44!
THAT'S THE CONTROL MECHANISM, ISN'T IT...

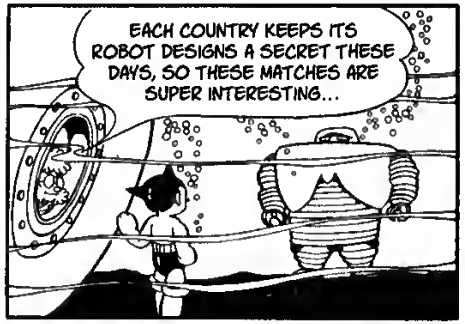
GOSH, THEY DON'T SEEM LIKE BAD PEOPLE....

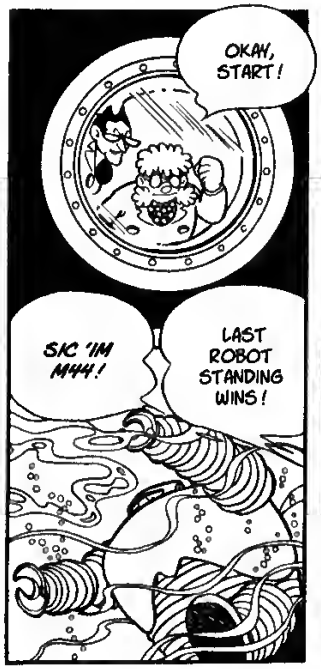
...BUT THEY SURE ARE TAKING A LONG TIME...

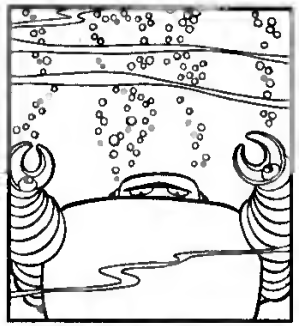


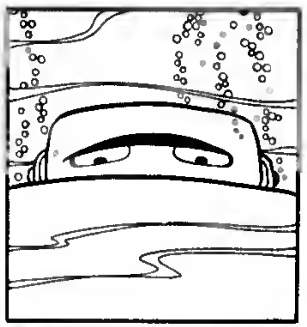
THIS'LL REALLY GIVE US AN ADVANTAGE...
NEXT, TO TEST IT OUT...


SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING SO LONG... IF YOU'RE GETTING BORED, HOW 'BOUT TESTING YOUR STRENGTH AGAINST M44?


EACH COUNTRY KEEPS ITS ROBOT DESIGNS A SECRET THESE DAYS, SO THESE MATCHES ARE SUPER INTERESTING...


OKAY, START!
SIC 'IM M44!
LAST ROBOT STANDING WINS!





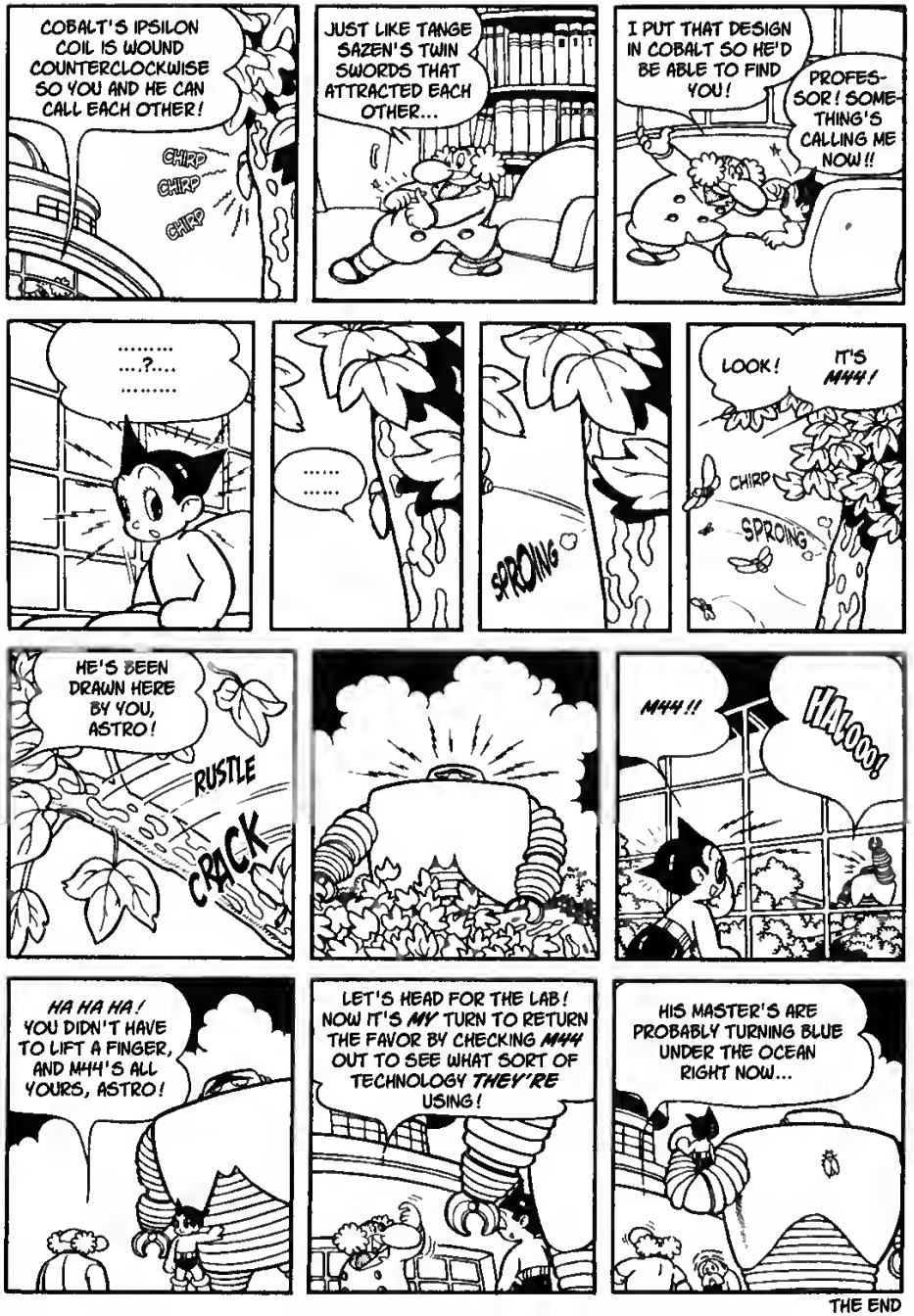
KA
CHONK

I CAN'T LET HIM WIN! I CAN'T!

SHABOONK
THAT'S ONE FOR ASTRO!
SO LET ME SEE COBALT...
THERE'S ONE MORE ROUND TO GO, ASTRO...
WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW COME THEY'RE MAKING ME WAIT...?
I'LL SET MY HEARING ON 1000X...
RRRRRR
GRRRR
COMMANDER! THERE'S ONE OTHER PART OF COBALT'S BODY I DON'T UNDERSTAND YET...
WHAT THE --?!
THE IPSILON WIRE COIL ON HIS EMPATHIZER'S WOUND COUNTERCLOCKWISE, INSTEAD OF CLOCKWISE...
MAKE A NOTE OF THAT!
I GET IT! THEY'RE TRYING TO STALL, SO THEY CAN INVESTIGATE COBALT'S DESIGN!
THAT EXPLAINS THINGS!
THE COWARDS!

LET ME SEE COBALT! NOW!
I'M COMING, COBALT!
KAVOOOSH
JUST AS I THOUGHT!
ALL THAT TALK ABOUT CHANGING HIS TUBES WAS A LIE!
WOOOSH
HE SAW THROUGH US, COMMANDER ...
INDEED, HE DID...
BUT AT LEAST WE GOT TO ANALYZE COBALT'S DESIGN!
I CAN TRY TO WIND M44'S IPSILON COIL COUNTERCLOCKWISE, IF IT'LL HELP.
DO IT...
WE MAY BE COPYCATS, BUT THIS IS PROGRESS FOR OUR NATION'S ROBOT TECHNOLOGY...
NOW M44'S DESIGN'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS COBALT'S!

I'M BEING CALLED... I'M BEING CALLED...
WHAT?!
BEING CALLED? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M BEING CALLED!
STOP! WAIT, M44!!
M44'S GONE CRAZY!
HA-ALP!
CALM DOWN, M44! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
ACK! STOP!
FIVE HOURS LATER, IN TOKYO...
CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE, ASTRO, FOR THE WAY YOU SMASHED THAT H-BOMB...
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS, THEY LEARNED ALL OF COBALT'S SECRET DESIGNS...
YOU MEAN M44'S NOW GOT THE SAME DESIGN FOR HIS CONTROLS?
EXACTLY THE SAME?
YEAH... I THINK THEY EVEN IMITATED THAT IPSILON COIL THING HE'S GOT...
HA HA HAH HA HA HA HAR!
I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR... I KNOW IT WAS S'POSED TO BE A SECRET...
ASTRO... I'VE GOTTA TELL YOU...
...HA HA HA... THIS IS A GOOD ONE!


COBALT'S IPSILON COIL IS WOUND COUNTERCLOCKWISE SO YOU AND HE CAN CALL EACH OTHER!
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
JUST LIKE TANGE SAZEN'S TWIN SWORDS THAT ATTRACTED EACH OTHER...
I PUT THAT DESIGN IN COBALT SO HE'D BE able TO FIND YOU!
PROFESSOR! SOMETHING'S CALLING ME NOW!!
.....?.....
SPROING
LOOK! IT'S M44!
CHIRP
SPROING
HE'S BEEN DRAWN HERE BY YOU, ASTRO!
RUSTLE
CRACK
M44!!
HAOOO!
HA HA HA! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO LIFT A FINGER, AND M44'S ALL YOURS, ASTRO!
LET'S HEAD FOR THE LAB! NOW IT'S MY TURN TO RETURN THE FAVOR BY CHECKING M44 OUT TO SEE WHAT SORT OF TECHNOLOGY THEY'RE USING!
HIS MASTER'S ARE PROBABLY TURNING BLUE UNDER THE OCEAN RIGHT NOW...

THE END